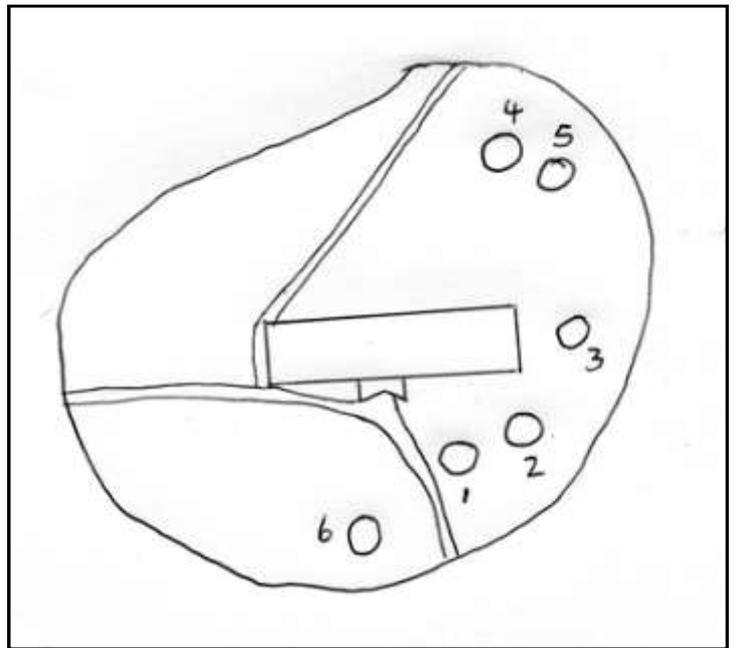


The churchyard is large and sub-circular, a fine example of a medieval 'llan'. By tradition it is the burial-place of St Cynog, the son of Brychan, who established a settlement here before 500 A.D.

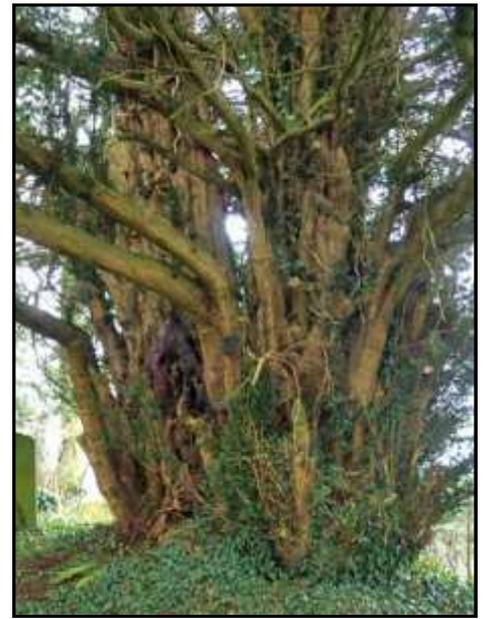
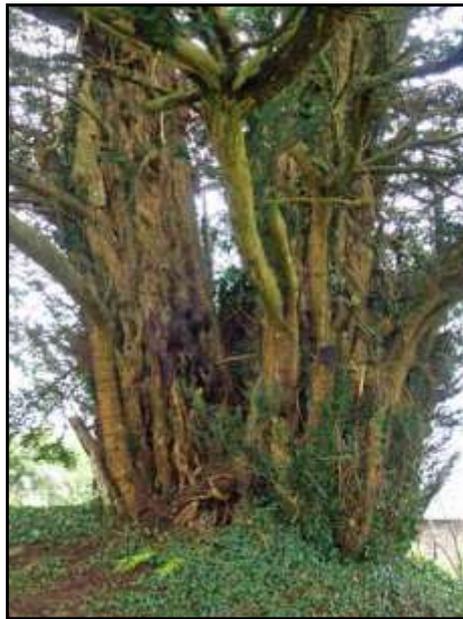
The 1970 Brecon Yew Survey documented 6 trees as follows: 26' - a tree in 3 sections, 19', 14' 2", 19', 22' 6", 10'. All six are male.

I visited in 1998, 2001, 2006 and 2014 and Paul Wood in 2017.

Tree 1 is the largest girthed. It grows on a mound and is seen on the right when entering the churchyard at its south entrance. In 1998, three large stems, obscured by thick ivy, developed from its 25' girthed bole. Build up of humus around tree almost swallowed tombstones. By 2006, girth was reduced to approximately 22', following the collapse of one of the three stems. The remaining two are joined for 2'.

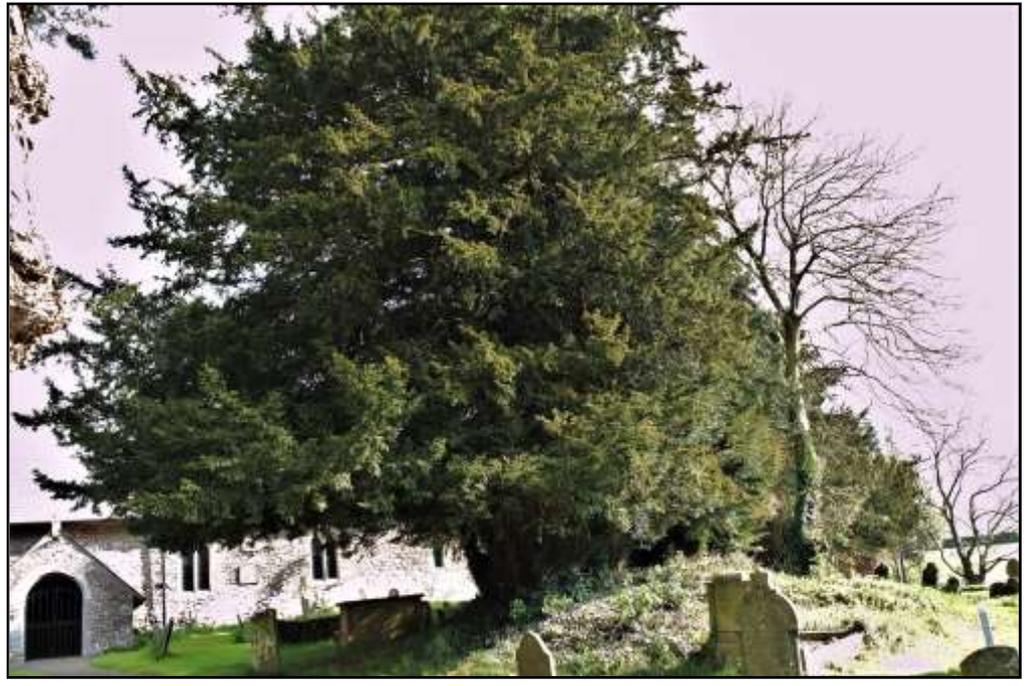


photos below show the yew in 2014



and photographed by Paul Wood in 2017





Tree 2 is a confusion of trunks, suggesting regrowth after collapse of the old tree. It was covered in twiggy growth and had a girth of approximately 18' in 2006 (left).

The tree is seen in Paul Wood's 2017 photos below. He noted what he thought were the remains of old stump between the current tree's form and the church, suggesting that this is a remnant of a once bigger tree. The ivy carpet was climbing into the tree. Girth recorded was 17' 9" (5.41m) at the root crown.



Tree 3 consists of many upright branches from a solid looking ivy clad bole with some hollow spaces. It is a tall tree with thick foliage. Girth was 16' 2" at 1' in 2001 and 16' 3" at 1' in 2006, when the photo on the left was taken. The photo on the right was taken in 2014.



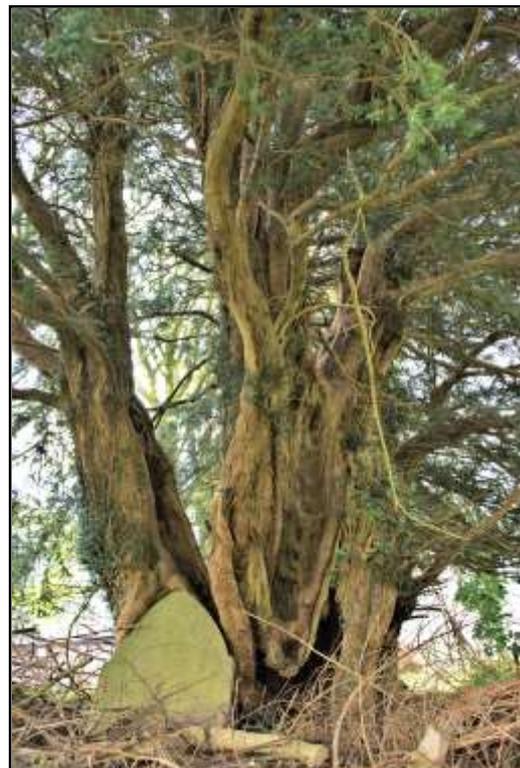
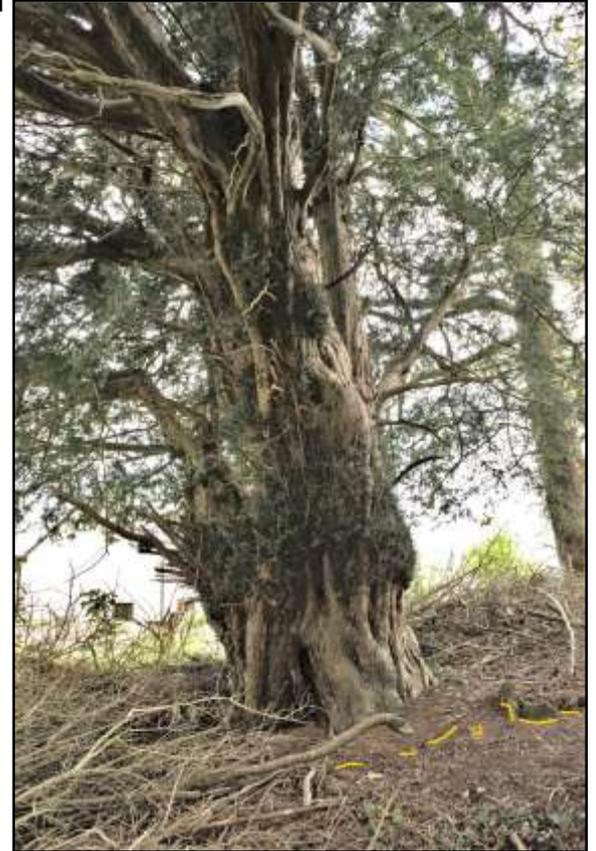
2017: Paul Wood photographed the yew after most of the ivy had been cut. He measured at 1' (30cm) and recorded a girth of 16' 8" (5.08m).



In *Trees of the Celtic Saints* Andrew Morton suggests that trees 4 and 5, which grow close to each other, belong to the same root system. Janis Fry has confirmed that dead wood protrudes from the ground between the trunks, providing further evidence to support this theory. It is therefore possible that these are fragments from a once vast ancient tree.

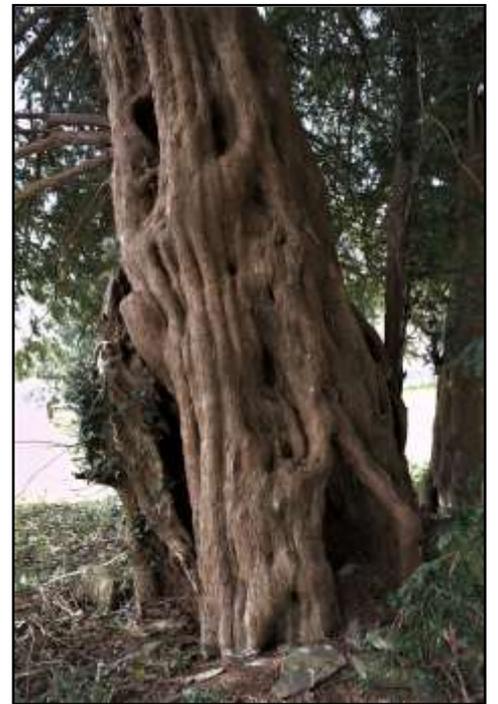


In 1998 I recorded tree 4 having an elongated bole with internal growth in centre. In 2006 (photo left) a girth of 14' 6" was recorded close to the ground. By February 2014 this had increased to 14' 11". The possibility that this yew and tree 5 are well developed fragments of a once huge tree that would have filled the space between them is backed up by the pieces of stump highlighted in Paul Wood's photos taken in 2017.



1998: Tree 5, seen right in 2006 - grows NE of the church. Girth of 14' 5" close to the ground was recorded. In 2006 I described a hollow yew standing on several 'legs' with a fine healthy foliage. Girth, taking in the additional branch, was 16' 7". In 2014 girth was 16' 8" including an additional branch and 14' 7½" excluding it.

The remaining photos were taken by Paul Wood in 2017. What remains looked healthy and was growing well with deep green and thick foliage.



Tree 6 has the smallest girth at under 14', but has the characteristics of a once much larger tree.

In 2017 Paul Wood noted a number of dead and dying limbs in the canopy. Foliage was a deep green but was much thinner than the other yews. Perhaps the competition from the other closely planted species was beginning to hide the sunlight and drink the water the yew has for so long had to its self. There was much twiggy growth on the east and south side of the bole and a girth at the top of the roots of exactly 14' (4.27m). There was a spine of white wood visible in the centre of the tree on its west side.

