



The yew was first noted following an excursion of the North Staffs Botanical Society on May 19th 1888 led by Mr T.S. Wilkins: 'It is to be remarked that there are no burials on the north side, that an ancient yew tree stands to the south of the church, and that beneath it are the remains of an elaborate base of a churchyard cross'.

In 1939 Mee's report in *The King's England* thought that 'it is probable that the great yew in the churchyard is as old as the church; it is a vigorous and shapely monster ... though its chief branches have gone'.

The surrounding stone wall has long been a feature of this tree, and can be seen in the Revd Williams painting of 25th August 1790. It is reproduced here with the kind permission of Shropshire Archives: Norbury: 00012371, 6001/372/2 (24/660).

In 1999 the wall was clearly breaking up as the tree continues to expand. Its main trunk splits into 3 branches at a height of about 20' (A). In addition a substantial limb (B) is pulling away from the tree and might at some time require a prop. Small twiggy growth had been removed from much of the lower bole.

The girth measurements of such a tree are likely to be approximate and dependent on the amount of twiggy growth. Hence Mee in 1939 gave 30ft, Morton 10.7 m (35ft) at the base in 1983, while my own tape in 1999 read about 33ft close to the ground.