

The church guide book tells us that in 1740 'Then was the 2 yew trees sett in the churchyard by John Gill, John Amey, William Amey and William Panes. Signed JOHN ARNEY Church warden.'

The yews are male and female, growing either side of the path leading to the church on the south side. Most easterly is the male (left), whose trunk, to a height of about 30', was completely hidden behind ivy. It appears that the tree was truncated at this height some time in the past. Perhaps it was the weight of ivy in the branches that caused this to happen. Girth, over ivy, was 8' 8" at 3' and 8' 11" at 2'.

The female (right) grows more westerly. Its trunk was covered with a thin layer of ivy. Numerous branches develop above a height of about 10'. Girth over ivy was 9' 3" at 3' and 9' 6" at 2'.



A third yew grows by the SE perimeter wall. It was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme, or is one of many yews planted in churchyards to celebrate the Millennium.



Three female yews grow here.



In 2007 the largest (above), which grows south of the church, had a girth of exactly 15' at 1', and 15' 3" close to the ground. A healthy yew, it was being used to prop up several lawn mowers and planks of wood. Little had altered by 2015 when these photographs were taken and a girth of 15' 1" at 1' was recorded. On this occasion some aerial roots were seen on the east side of the trunk.



The 2nd yew (left) grows on the north side of the church to the east. It has a bulgy shape caused by branch removal. In 2007 it had a girth of 12' 2" at about 1', which had increased to 12' 7" at the same height in 2015.

The 3rd yew (right) grows on the north side of the church to the west. In 2007 girth was 11' 9" near to the ground but above the roots. A large number of branches have been removed, including one at a height of about 10'. A new stem has developed at the side of the main trunk.

In 2015 the yew was remeasured as in 2007 and a girth of 11' 11½" was recorded.



I had a good deal of sympathy with the person who complained about the arils of the two yews north of the church falling onto the sloping path and making entry to the church difficult in the autumn.



The male yew grows north of the church and close to the path leading to its main north door. It is a tall tree with a slightly twisted stem. Branch development begins at a height of about 10'. Girth was 12' 0" at 1', 12' 1" at 3' and 12' 11" at 5'.

A young male yew (no photo) grows in the burial ground on the north side. Its girth was 7' 4" at 1'.



BATHEALTON

St Bartholomew

ST07942406

26th October 2015



The *King's England* c1950 described that 'a fine old yew hangs over the gate'. It is the only yew in the churchyard and grows on a steep mound. It is solid with a bole 6'7" high supporting many thick branches. Much ivy covered the ground and filled the tree. Girth was approximately 14' in 2007. By 2015, when the photographs were taken, some of the wayward branches had been reined in, and although the crown looked a little sparse in places, there was plentiful growth on branches all round the tree.



In December 1991 a letter received at the Conservation Foundation stated: 'The yew tree lies to the south of the church. The girth at 3' is 14' 10½" and at 4' is 15' 10½". The tree is not hollow. No berries, so presumably male'.

In October 2016 I recorded girth close to the ground over ivy as 15' 1". The yew has a large number of thick branches that give it a fine expansive shape. It looked in excellent health with vigorous growth throughout. However the ivy was beginning to take a hold in the branches. People working in the churchyard were advised that it might be removed, but I was told that such action would be opposed by many people who lived in the area.



The exceptional feature of this yew is that the male tree has a single female branch. In October 1999 a girth of 13' 4" at 3' was recorded.



In 2014 the female branch could still be identified, facing towards the church. Girth had increased to 13' 11", keeping the tape 3' above the sloping ground. Above the measured height the tree swells considerably, and from 10'/12' the thick central branch is surrounded by 7 or 8 lateral branches creating a shapely crown.

