

From: 'Durleigh: Church', A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 6 (1992)

'The churchyard, its walls maintained by local farmers in the 17th century, includes a yew tree planted in 1724'.

This significant yew (left) grows in a prominent position south of the church. If this was a 1724 planting it has grown rapidly, having a girth in 2012 of 13' 11" at 1' above the higher ground. This would be affected by ivy and included some of the spreading root. It was also 13' 11" at 4', again over ivy. The female tree is solid, with no branches for about the first 8', above which many develop. In 2016 I recorded 14' 8" at 4' over ivy.



South of the church at the perimeter is a female yew (centre) with several stems growing from a height of 2' upwards. Some internal growth was noted. Girth was 9' 9½" at about 1'.

To the NE is a bushy millennium yew (right) about 4' high.

West of the tower above a dangerous drop to the road is a scrappy female yew with a girth of about 6' (no photo).



DURSTON St John the Baptist ST29102810 8/4/2006 and 28/9/2015

What is left of this female yew leans and has come to rest on an 8' high monument. Ivy and brambles hindered exploration, but one of several pieces of stump appeared to be yew. Girth including this would have been about 18' and suggests that this might just be a fragment of what was once a more formidable tree. Foliage was extremely thick on a low growing tree whose branches sweep upwards like an Irish Yew. Girth - 13' 3" at 3'.







The striking male yew grows SSW of the church on the boundary with a farm. Girth was 14' 7" above its vast spread of roots and before an explosion of growth. It is most expansive above its narrow waist. Large 'stags head' branches poked through the thick and healthy foliage.



The yew grows west of the church tower towards the road. It is a particularly tall and leaning male tree. Its lowest girth, measured between 1' and 2' to allow for the lean, was 12' 1". Ivy grew high into the tree.

A second yew, not photographed, grows at the far east end of the churchyard. It was ivy covered, and ivy also filled its branches, Girth was approximately 8' 6" at 2' 6".

