

Tree 1, the most significant of Martock's many yews, is the furthest east of three females trees growing close to the busy B 3165. The notable yew had a girth of 13' 8" close to the ground and 15' 2½" at 3'. From a height of 3¼' it divides into many thick upward growing branches.



Tree 2 has no branches below a height of about 10' and a girth close to the ground of 8' 6".

Tree 3 has a very colourful fluted trunk with no branching below about 12'. Girth was exactly 11' at 3'. Facing the road is a section of the tree that was removed some time ago. An elder tree that has germinated inside the yew was so well developed that it was producing fruit.



Trees 4 and 5 grow side by side on the south side of the Irish Yew avenue west of the tower. Tree 4 is scrappy and its development was being hampered by other vegetation growing in the same area.



Tree 5 is a millennium yew with a girth of 1' 9" close to the ground. It had some discoloured leaves.

Just beyond the end of the long Irish yew avenue, tree 6 divides into two sides at a height of 5'. Girth was 10' 5" at 1'.



Irish Yews

There are 3 avenues of Irish yews. The longest leads to the west tower and consists of forty two trees. One of the trees on the north side was showing signs of reverting to common or European yew (*Taxus baccata* L.).

A second avenue is found in the new burial ground at the western end of this large churchyard. A further four trees grow either side of the path leading to the church's south door.

Three male yews grow on the south side of the church. Trees 1 and 2 are notable specimens.



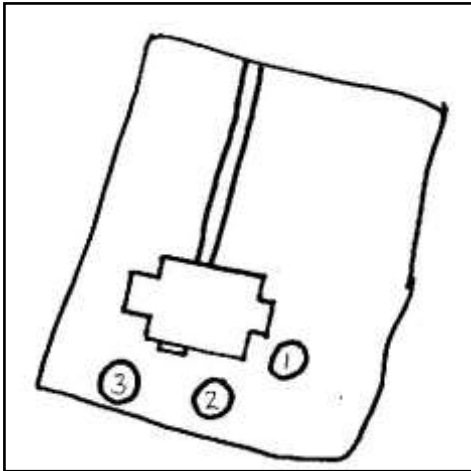
Yew 1, growing on a mound southeast of the church, has a fluted trunk. Girth in October 1999 was 14' 11" at root crown. In 2011 Peter Norton recorded 15' 1" at 1' (root crown) and 14' 6" at 3'

Yew 2 grows S of the church just on the east side of the path. It is male with a girth of 14' 3" measured above the bulge in 1999. In 2011 Peter Norton recorded 14' 4" at both 1' and 3' from the top of the mound.

Yew 3 grows SW of the church It consists of 8/10 living stems and some others cut off. Closer inspection in

2016 revealed that a new younger yew was growing in among its lower branches and adding even more to its spreading nature.

Also noted here was the avenue of Irish yews leading to and from the north of the church, as well as this spreading yew whose leaves are reverting from Irish yew to common yew.



A label tells us of a yew planted in 1840, when the church was built. In the past concern was expressed about the health of this tree because so many of its leaves were brown. In 2015 it was in vigorous, green health. This yew already has a girth of 12' 1", trying to obtain a minimum girth in the first 6" of its growth. It is a tree that confirms why a girth of 12' does not always denote a likely age of 300 years for a yew, in this instance the tree is multi-stemmed.



The large female yew grows about 10m from the east end of the church. A further 5m brings you to a stream. Beneath the tree is a broken tomb and the headstone from 1856.

The tree consists of numerous upward rising branches, some of which appear to have merged with those next to them. There was also much rising twiggy growth low on the tree, some of which seem to have thickened and now appear as new stems plastered onto the side of the trunk. There is a small platform at a height of about 8'.

Girth was exactly 15' at about 1', trying to obtain lowest measurement.



The fluted female yew grows at the SE corner of the church and only a few metres from it. It has a trunk devoid of any growth for 6' and curves in the trunk showing where larger branches have been removed. Between 8' and 12' rising branches develop. There is one particularly deep fissure in this fluted trunk. At 5' it measured 12' 10" in 2000 and 13' 4½" in 2016, an increase of 6½" in 16 years.



A second yew, right, grows at the perimeter by the churchyard shed NE of the church. It was completely obscured by 10' high vegetation. Girth appeared to be 8' to 10'.

