

The church shares the site with the ruins of a 12th century abbey.

Thanks to an unknown artist circa 1800 we have evidence that this yew has grown inside a wall for more than two centuries.



In his 1803 *A tour throughout South Wales and Monmouthshire*, J.T.Barber noted the church-yard yew, 'decay'd and worn with age' as having a pleasing characteristic effect.

In 1835, found in *The Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction* is *An Old Man's Story*. This tells of Caroline correcting her drawings 'as she sat under the venerable yew tree, sketching the Church of St. Dogmael, and the ruins of the fine old Abbey'.

An 'aged yew' was also described by G. Nicholson in the 1840 *Cambrian traveller's guide*.



1999: The site was visited and the yew recorded. Its ivy clad bole gives no impression of large girth or vast old age; for that we have to rely on the history books. A prop held up a leaning part of the tree where it has broken the wall. All branches had been kept neatly trimmed, leaving little doubt that the priority was - and remains - to keep the tree tidy and prevent it from spreading. Its credentials as a veteran tree relate to that portion of its bole that is hidden deep in the soil behind the wall.

2012: There was talk about the tree being removed so that money would no longer have to be spent carrying out repairs to the wall, which is up to 6ft high.