

## STAFFORDSHIRE - churchyard sites with younger yews

**FULFORD** St Nicholas SJ952384 10/9/2005 Tim Hills

The present church was erected about 1827. It is the site of a building of unknown date – as indicated by ‘some yew trees in the churchyard’ noted by Mr J.R.B.Masefield on Thursday July 19th 1917.

There is a line of 3 male yews left of the path leading to the church. The first was completely hollow, with a girth of just under 10', standing on 2 legs which join at 6' and 10' to make a complete circle of growth. This feeds into a rising central branch. The 2<sup>nd</sup> had a girth of about 8'. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was much smaller. The 4<sup>th</sup> is set a little way back from the path.

To the left on entering the churchyard is an embankment above the road, on which was a cluster of about 7 much younger yews.

**MAVESYN RIDWARE** St Nicholas 10/9/2009 Tim Hills

1877 An excursion led by Mr C. Lynam on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> reported ‘a fine yew tree’ in the south of the churchyard. The male yew, SE of the church, girthed under 9' over a covering of ivy, so was probably only 6' or so in 1877. On its 4' high bole is an explosion of growth on several stout branches.

**MAYFIELD** St John the Baptist SK153448 10/9/2005 Tim Hills

1909/1910 “...but the charm of the God’s acre here lies mostly in the beautiful yew and cypress trees, of perhaps 300 years growth, which also add not a little to the charm of the church itself.....Beneath the shade of a yew on the south side are the fragments of a cross put together for their preservation.” by Charles Lynam, FSA,FRIBA read Nov 18th 1909

There are many yews in this churchyard, but nothing above 8' in girth. ESE by the entrance gate are 2 yews. Almost due south are two, under 8' in girth. A third on the south side growing closer to the road was of similar girth. There are also 4 yews on the north side along with Irish yews.

**PATTINGHAM** St Chad SO82159920 7/4/2012 Tim Hills

A 'large yew on the south side' was described in 1846 (source unknown). The yew, which grows SE of the church, had a girth of about 10', swelling considerably at a height of about 5'. It has dipping branches all around.

