



The yew was first noted in 1845 *Rambles by Rivers* by James Thorne: 'This leads past Stopham, where is a little Norman church pleasantly situated on a hill, with a fine yew in the churchyard and a noble prospect from the hill above'.

The 1877 *Sussex Archaeological Collections* described 'a magnificent yew tree supposed to have been planted when the church was built. Its erection probably took place soon after the Conquest'.

The girth of this yew certainly suggests a tree that is coeval with the church, although accord-



Peter Norton—2012

ing to Meredith's *Gazetteer* it was planted in about 700AD.

1999: The female yew grows SW of the church. Thick buttress like stems which grow against the bole can be followed into the branches they support. The solid looking bole, covered with twiggy growth, supports 2 main branches and at least 6 further areas of growth, producing a thick canopy on a healthy looking tree.

#### Girth

1997: 12m tall x 242 cm diameter at 0 m - Owen Johnson *The Sussex Tree Book*

1999: 25' 9" at the ground - Tim Hills

2012: 26' 1" at the ground, just below the point where epicormic growth starts - Peter Norton