

SURREY - churchyard sites with younger yews

CHELSHAM St Leonard TQ389591 19/12/1999 Tim Hills

The King's England (Mee c1940) reported that in 1746 the 3 fine yews in the churchyard were 'planted by the rector and the schoolmaster'. I have been unable to locate the source of this information, but the girths recorded in 1880 are what might be expected of 134 year old yews. They were measured by Straker as follows: SSW 6' at 5', SE 7' 3" at 5' and ESE 4' 6" at 5'.

In 1912 *The History of the County of Surrey* noted a "fine yew of great age" on its eastern side.

In 1994 Gwyneth Fookes remeasured the three yews as follows: SSW 8' at 5', SE 13' 3" at 3' and ESE 12' 6" at 3'.

In 1999 I recorded two yews as follows and assume that the tree SSW has been removed. The yew closest to the church and ESE was 13' at 3'. It was not hollow, grew particularly straight and had a large dead section. The yew SE had a girth of 12' at 2'.

CHIDDINGFOLD St Mary SU960354 2006

The yew grows to the west of the 13th century church.. It is a fine looking healthy yew with a girth of about 9', threatened with felling to enable the church to be extended.

FARNHAM St Andrew SU838467 12/7/2000 Tim Hills

The Penny Post in 1875 referred to a yew at this site, without adding further details. The only yew here is a fine specimen WSW of the church, with a girth of 10' 10" at 5'. It has a fluted bole of 8' with a fine spread of branches all around and some dipping over graves and across the path.

FRENSHAM St Mary the Virgin SU84194146 17/3/2008 Owen Johnson

The original building was dedicated in 1239, having been moved from low-lying land nearby. The yew is multi-stemmed but decayed, with hollowing trunk and branches. It is Ancient Tree Hunt number 6778. Girth 402cm or 13' 2" at 1'.

FRIMLEY St Peter SU880581 13/1/2000 Tim Hills

The Churchyard Yew and Immortality (Vaughan Cornish 1946) noted that 'south of the church is a tree older than the church'. A pair of yews grow in this position, both estimated at 100/150 years at the most. Since the church is a 19th century building, on the site of an older church, one of these could well be the tree Cornish was told about.

GUILDFORD HILL CEMETERY SU990489 9/3/2005 Tim Hills

I had been told of an 'old, old yew, 18' girth' with an ancient trackway leading to it. There was no sign of an old tree in this cemetery.

LALEHAM All Saints TQ052689 19/12/1999 Tim Hills

Two fine tall yews grow either side of the path approaching the church. The male to the left measured 9' 3" at 3', it has a very fluted and clean bole. The female on the right measured 7' 8" at 3'. Twiggy growth began at 5' and was visible high into the tree.

LINGFIELD St Peter and St Paul Robert Burrows 2008

There are a number of fine yews surrounding the church. To the south west of the church tower, there is a very large ivy clad yew standing in a garden adjacent the church boundary. It is probably twice as large as the largest yew in the churchyard. To the south of the Church in another neighbouring garden is a further good sized yew. 307 (10ft at 150cm)

OXTED St Mary the Virgin TQ391530 17/2/2001 Tim Hills

The Penny Post of 1875 described the ancient church with a '15th century porch that is sheltered by a magnificent yew in front of the old manor house'. Here was a young female only, growing SW of the church, with a girth of 10' 7" at 3'. Its roots spread downwards to the path.

PYRFORD St Nicholas TQ040582 3/4/2004 Tim Hills

Not ancient, as in some reports, nonetheless a fine male tree NNW of the church. 4 large branches facing the church have been removed and new growth surrounds the wounds. A branch crossing the path is propped. Bark particularly flaky and coloured. Girth 9' 7" at 2'.

WOTTON St John the Evangelist TQ126480 16/2/2001 Tim Hills

Lowe (1890) recorded 2 yews with girths of 18' and 22'. A winter photograph of the churchyard showed that there were no yews here in 1936 – or in 2001.