

The church is 13<sup>th</sup> century. At the time of my visit its porch was decorated with yew for Palm Sunday.

In 1850 *Sharpe's London Journal* reported that 'the churchyard of Upper Hardres, Kent, contains two very ancient yews; one of them, however, was nearly destroyed by the memorable November gale some years since; its companion measures twenty-one feet in girth, three feet above the soil'.

In 1936 Mee's *The King's England* noted 'A fine yew perhaps 500 years old, and another which is surely the most twisted tree for miles'.



1999: Both yews are female and grow on the north side of the church. The largest, below left, is hollow with a distinctive red bark, and was set in a circle of elder and nettles. As well as a major section at (A) which had snapped off, many major branches had also been sawn off. Girth was 21' 8" at 3'.

Only half of the smaller tree remains, measuring 15' at 1'. This is probably the tree seen in the 1807 b&w photo of a Petrie watercolour.

