

In the past:

1818: 'The church of Waldershare is very small, and nearly hidden by a solemn grove of yew trees'.

1833: '.....the encasing of the old dead wood by that of more modern formationmay be seen well exemplified in an old yew tree in the churchyard at Waldershare'. Rev W.T.Bree

1936: 'The chief possessions of this little church are its magnificent yews, two perhaps as old as the Norman Conquest'. Mee *The King's England*



On the left is the first magnificent yew, a female on the south side of the church. Almost its entire bole is covered in living wood. Regular trimming next to the path has exposed an unusually large area to direct sunlight, producing a richly coloured bark. Many thick branches grow from this 8' high bole. Girth was 23' 9" at the ground, but above bulging roots, in 1999 and 23' 11" at the same place in 2013.

The second magnificent yew, also female and growing by the side of tree 1, will be the tree Rev Bree referred to in 1833.

It is seen here in 1999, a tree of two fragments girthing just under 32', in which one fragment has leaned over and come to rest neatly in the branches of the first yew. The standing section divided neatly into three main growth areas, but by 2013 that too had partially collapsed.





Above: The fallen fragment rests neatly and safely in the branches of the first yew.

Below: In 2009 the standing fragment divided into three parts. Two of these collapsed in that year leaving a single standing fragment seen here in 2013.



The remaining three yews grow in a less accessible part of the churchyard on the north side.



Tree 3 is male growing WNW of the church. A long root stretches away on the south side. The bole is so covered in twiggy growth that measurement proved impossible, but 19' is a good guide.



Tree 4 (left) is female, NNW of the church, with a girth of 15' 6" at 2' in 1999. It was competing against the relentless advance of ivy and old mans beard and could not be remeasured in 2013.

Tree 5 is male NNE of the church, with a girth estimated at about 15' in 1999.



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