

We do not know when St John's Church was built, but according to local tradition it was during the reign of William Rufus, sometime between the years 1087-1100. In 1994, on the 700th anniversary of the recording of the first Rector of West Grimstead, a new stained glass window was commissioned, called The Tree of Life. It can be seen in the south east aisle of the church.

2009: I was first alerted to this tree on a family history website which stated that 'the remains of an ancient yew tree still stand'.

The male tree, NE of the church at the edge of the churchyard, is hollowed out with about 2' 6" of accumulated detritus in its centre. Into this are embedded two thick internal stems which feed from and into the central main branch. All growth comes from this, since all other branches and limbs that were once full of life have been removed. These photographs were taken during a cloudburst in November, but foliage was thick enough to keep the camera dry.

Present girth of a tree that has been much larger, was 15' 6" at 1'.

