

WEST SUSSEX - churchyard sites with younger yews

BARLAVINGTON St Mary SU9721616049 1992 D.Rudd-Jones

A solid female yew with a girth between 9' 4" and 9' 8".

BEPTON St Mary SU854183 Peter Norton

An early church, rebuilt in the 13th century and in 1878. Of the six yews that grow along the east perimeter five are quite small. The largest, with a massive exposed root system, overhangs the road that leads to the farm.

CHIDHAM St Mary SU788039 Peter Norton

One young male grows southwest of the church. At the southeast corner of the churchyard is a larger male with three main leaders from a short bole. Much twiggy lower growth and thick stems of ivy preventing accurate measurements and 11' was estimated.

CLIMPING (Clymping) St Mary the Virgin TQ002025 19/6/2011 Peter Norton

The church and the parish Council use the old name of Clymping as opposed to the modern spelling seen on maps. The church has a Norman tower built in 1170 with the church added in 1230. A single female yew grows here, close to the south west gate. It has a swollen lower root, a break of crown at 5', and there is evidence of hollowing. Difficult to measure but a girth of about 12' at 1' was recorded.

COCKING St Catherine of Siena SU879175 Peter Norton

A church recorded in the Domesday Book, restored in the 19th century. One male yew growing north of the church had a girth of 11' at 3'. It has a tapering bole with no break of crown. Two smaller female trees grow along the south and east perimeter.

COMPTON St Mary SU777147 Peter Norton

Three young yews grow in the churchyard.

EAST DEAN All Saints SU905132 Peter Norton

A 12th century church restored around 1870. One female grows just south of the porch. It has a break of crown at 4' 6" and a girth of 10' 2" at 2'.

EAST MARDEN St Peter SU807146 Peter Norton

A 12th century church, much restored in 1875. A male and female grow on the southwest churchyard perimeter and two males on the northwest perimeter.

EASTERGATE St George SU9454205090 Peter Norton

A much restored 11th century church. Here are six main yews, four young trees plus several saplings. A male close to the gate girthed 7' 10" at 1'. A female grows SW of the church with four younger yews and some saplings can also be found. Towards the east of the church is a line of four yews. They are (1) male with a girth of 12' 8" at the root crown and 13' 1" at 2' (2) a smaller male (3) a female (4) a female with a girth of 9' at 1'.

ELSTED St Paul SU816197 Peter Norton

One young male close to the south gate, many lower branches distorting measurements.

FISHBOURNE St Peter & St Mary SU842044 Peter Norton

One male yew grows northeast of the church and a juvenile male, possible a millennium planting, grows to the northwest.

FORD St Andrew TQ002036 Peter Norton

A young yew grows east of the church. Thick lower growth prevented measurement.

LODSWORTH St Peter SU931227 Peter Norton

An ancient church much altered in the 1840s. Three yews grow here. (1) A columnar female girthing 10' 8" at 1' 6" grows close to what was the original entrance through the tower. (2) A twin trunked female grows on the north perimeter. (3) A male with a girth of 14' close to the ground grows close to the northwest gate. Its girth is exaggerated by side limbs.

LYMINSTER St Mary Magdalene TQ022047 Peter Norton

A 10th century Saxon church with considerable restoration after 1850. One male grows close to the north corner of the churchyard. Girth was 8' 11" at 1'.

MERSTON St Giles SU893026 Peter Norton

One young yew grows south west of the church.

NORTH MUNDHAM St Stephen SU874021 Peter Norton

A 13th century church rebuilt in 1883. One young yew grows near the porch.

OVING St Andrew 19/06/2011 Peter Norton

The largest tree here girths about 11'.

POLING St Nicholas TQ047045 Peter Norton

A church of Saxon origins restored in 1875. Of the three yews that grow here two are close to the tower. The third, female, grows opposite the south porch.

PYECOMBE Church of the Transfiguration TQ2916412597 Ken Grocott 2022

The Church of the Transfiguration celebrated its 850th anniversary in 2020. It is on the South Downs Way in the National Park, on chalk geology. It consists of an upper churchyard, which no longer takes burials, and a lower churchyard which is still in use. The female yew is on the boundary of the two. At the base it measures 3.33 metres - just short of 11 feet in circumference. At a height of 1m it measures 3.71m (12' 2") in circumference. It then divides into several smaller trunks.

SIDLESHAM St Mary our Lady SZ855990 Peter Norton 2011

A 13th century church, 16th century tower and 19th century porch. One young female with a girth of 8' 8" at 2' grows just west of the church. East of the church is a multi-stemmed male with the girth of 11' 9" at 6".

SINGLETON The Blessed Virgin Mary SU878130 Peter Norton

An 11th century church, restored in 1863. One female yew grows near to the north porch. Thick stemmed ivy has recently been cut and a girth of around 10' at 2' was noted.

STORRINGTON St Mary TQ086141 8/10/2011 Tim Hills

A report of 3 x 500 year old yews here is wide of the mark. While none of the 3 are particularly old, no details were taken.

STOUGHTON St Mary SU800115 Peter Norton

Three yews grow here, two females west of the church and one male growing from a substantial mound just northwest of the porch. This tree leans away from the church and has new growth from the base of the bole which artificially expands the girth. No measurement was recorded.

TERWICK St Peter SU817235 Peter Norton

One male grows close to the porch

UP MARDEN St Michael SU795141 Peter Norton

This 13th century church is hidden away from the road up a narrow farm track. It has no electricity and no restoration. As you approach the church from the north entrance you pass beneath four yews, two each side of the footpath of which the largest was 11' 5". On the south side of the church are a further four yews of similar size to the first. At the southeast corner of the churchyard is a circle of five yews with a tomb in the centre dating from 1881. The largest tree in this group measured 9' 8".

WEST LAVINGTON St Mary Magdalene SU891205 Peter Norton
One young female grows close to the porch

WISTON All Saints TQ144139 8/10/2011 Tim Hills

A grade 1 listed church. The yew (NE) is not the 'great yew' I was expecting to see. It is a three stemmed tree from close to the ground and was not measured.