

The church has Norman origins. A nearby plot of ground is thought to mark the site of an old plague pit.

In 1839 *The History and Antiquities of Somersetshire* by W. Phelps was first to report that 'a venerable yew tree stands on the east of the church'.

In 1941 *The King's England* described 'an ancient yew with a trunk 26' round'. Mee

The *Somerset Village Book* of the 1990s noted 'a large gnarled yew tree, reputed to be 800 years old'. The postcard states that 'the yew tree is said to be 900 years old', although the tree in the picture is clearly not the yew!



1999: Standing inside the tree I counted 5 substantial areas of growth, of which four are vertical and the fifth is a limb stretching almost at right angles towards the church. Many small roots run through and feed from the rotting material inside this wayward branch. Mixed with the tree's vertical growth are the remnants of old branches. Some of the hollows in the tree had been filled with stones.

Mee's 26' girth reported in 1941 was presumably measured at what was then the traditional height of 5', and would have been swelled by the leaning branches. A more realistic girth just above the low wall was 19' 4".

In 2014 Peter Norton recorded a girth of 20' 3" close to the ground.

In 2015 I recorded 20' 1" keeping the tape as close to the ground as possible.



The only other yew in this churchyard is this female millennium yew, growing SW of the church. It divides into 3 stems at a height of 3 inches.

