

The earliest references to this are provided by www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk/history.htm. Here we are told that in 1843 'after the demolition of the old building, the great yew tree, now suddenly visible to all, was giving cause for concern. The tree was already hollowing and its limbs were parting above the trunk. In an effort to save the tree, an iron collar was fitted around its two principal limbs'.

This was confirmed in the Chapel Warden's accounts of April 8th 1843 where W. Checketts was paid for 'assisting to cramp the Yew Tree 1s.3d. Paint for ditto 0s.6d.' It also noted that 'a century and a half later the cramp is still there, though in places the yew has grown over its iron collar, and the sixpenny worth of paint has flaked away!'

In 1932 'Worcester's expert Carleton Rea measured this one on December 23rd and reported to Herbert March that it was 13ft 7 ins round. The average yew trunk adds a quarter of an inch a year to its girth, it therefore took root here in about 1280, north of an older previous church'.

In 1938 Mee's *King's England* noted the 'aged yew with two trunks bound with an iron band'.

May 1999: The female tree, with particularly red bark, grows north of the church. At the time of my visit it shared its growing space with a compost heap, dustbin, litter bin, several holly trees and large pieces of concrete.

It has been a larger girthed tree, but in its present form consists of two hollow sections with internal growth. A large metal band holding them together has become partly concealed as new wood is laid down.

Girth: 14' 3" at the ground, 15' 2" at 3' and 16' at 5'.



In 2005 Geoff Garlick photographed the yew



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