



It is known that a Norman church stood on this site in the latter half of the 11th century. What is less certain is whether a Saxon church preceded this, though the name Wivelsfield is mentioned as early as AD 765 in an Anglo-Saxon charter.

The earliest known mention of the yew is in a 1911 *History of Sussex*, describing simply 'a yew on the north side of the churchyard'.

According to the church guide 'the tree is said by experts to be 1000 years old, so it is even older than the Norman church'.

1999 and 2004: The female yew grows on sloping ground, with its roots reaching downwards to the path. A wire around its trunk stretches to the base of a nearby tree to help prevent it from leaning any further. Its prominent internal stem (A) has a girth of about 5'. It probably developed in the centre of the original decaying trunk, giving us an indication that this was once a formidable tree of far greater girth. Three main branches (none of great size) support the bulk of the tree's growth. It seemed well cared for.

Girth

1994: 12m tall x 148cm diameter at 1.5m - Owen Johnson *The Sussex Tree Book*

1999: 15' 3" measured at 5' above the path - Tim Hills

