

'A gnarled monster.... grappling the steep bank, full of years and vigour'. This was how Mee recorded this remarkable tree in *The King's England* 1939. Perhaps the lack of earlier references is due to the remoteness of this site.

In 1986, Morton's *Trees of Shropshire* described 'a tree over 7m (23') in girth, with huge branches spreading over the lane - a majestic specimen'. Morton also noted that there was a 'holy well in the bank directly below the tree. A spring is also located across the road. An old track leading to Clee Hill from the churchyard was once apparently lined with yews which have been felled'.

1999: In Revd Williams 1791 watercolour, the yew is reached across a grassy churchyard. Two hundred years later it has spread its branches to the ground where many have layered and created new trees. In 2004 access to the tree was a path cut through the dipping branches. In that year I recorded a girth of about 24' 2" at 1'.



The next photos by Geoff Garlick show the bole in 2005



A much decorated tree in 2015



A storm damaged tree in 2023 with major branch failure.



In 2025 visitors to the churchyard are still pointed in the direction of the yew tree.



They see positive signs of a tree regrowing from the fractured stems, but it is to be hoped that wet conditions will dampen the dry material stored beneath the tree's canopy.

