

This church is situated in the middle of a working farm, and access from the main road was through electronically controlled gates. The raised churchyard is almost circular.

1812: *History and Antiquities of the County of Hereford* by John Duncumb: 'On the south side of the church is a very ancient yew-tree, of enormous girth. Its hollow trunk is used as a receptacle for rubbish.'

1867: *The Woolhope Transactions* recorded 'a sound old tree and at two feet from the ground measured not less than 22 feet 4 ins in girth.

1883: A report in *The Ross Gazette* describes the big yew as 'apparently struck by lightning on the afternoon of Sunday June 10th 1883'. It goes on to report that several young people were also struck by the lightning.

1922: 'A yew of enormous girth' was noted in *Little Guides*.

c1938: Mee's *King's England* is the first to acknowledge that there are two significant yews here. He writes that 'by a 300 year old farm stands the little church dwarfed by two great yews, one with a girth of 20'.'

1985: Allen Meredith visited on 9th August and observed that 'The ancient yew is obviously very hollow, but the gap in the trunk is only some six inches across, which suggests new growth has taken place over the centuries, and may continue until eventually the old trunk is completely solid. It is filled with churchyard rubbish, so we know since at least 1800 it has been used for this purpose at various times. A great deal of ivy is rapidly hiding the old trunk and where possible it should be cleared away, not only does it spoil the appearance of the tree but can cause some damage. Apart from this tree's vast hollow inner shell, it is a thriving healthy female tree. At about 5' from the ground it measures 29' feet in girth, and at 3' from the ground about 28' 6". The surrounding ivy and young shoots made measurement a little difficult. The ancient yew is only some six paces away from the porch.

3/5/1998: The largest yew is female and grows on the south side of the church. It appears solid but is completely hollow. At the time of this visit its cavity was filled with large quantities of straw. Its dead central trunk, which rises about 20', perhaps not surprisingly bore the marks of fire damage. Around this rose six substantial upright branches. Girth was 26' 5" between the ground and about 1' 6", tapering above protruding roots. 28' 9" at 3' was also recorded, a figure swelled by ivy and twiggy growth.

13/12/2014: A girth of exactly 27' was recorded between the ground and 18" - an increase of 7" in 16½ years. By now ivy had become a prominent feature and climbed high into the tree's upper branches. I was told that the vicar would be advised to have this removed. The rubbish previously stuffed into its vast hollow had disappeared.







The second yew is female and grows on the north side by the churchyard wall. I was given permission to see it from the farmyard below, where a substantial section of the tree grows out of the wall.

