

# THE LYNEHAM YEWS – 2010 to 2026

**Peter Norton**

St Michael's church was first mentioned in 1182, when it belonged to Bradenstoke Priory. The current church dates from the 14th and 15th centuries and was partially rebuilt in 1860.

12 yews are scattered around the churchyard with the most obvious being this fragmented female, growing outside of the south porch and having a recorded girth of 23' 1" (704cm) at the ground in 1998.

In February 2009 it was reported that several weeks of heavy snow and sub-zero freezing temperatures had taken its toll on the old yew. The top section of the tree could not withstand the weight of the snow and broke off about a 25 foot section of the middle main trunk, leaving a gaping hole.

2010



2013



Later visits have shown that natural growth has started to fill in this unsightly gap.

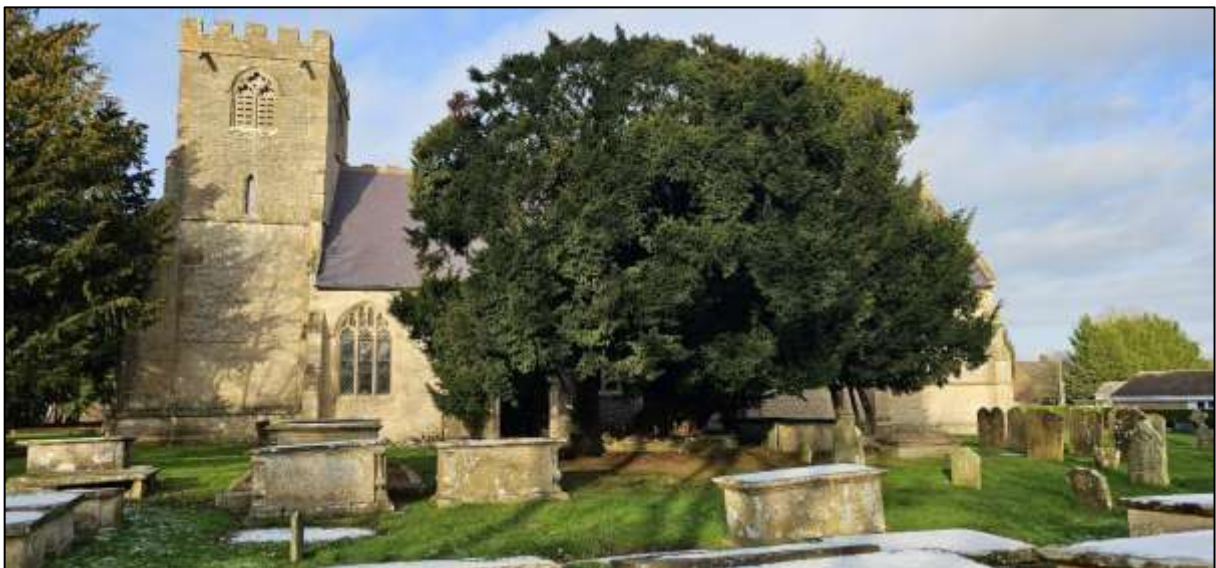
2016



2021



2023



Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2026

It is pleasing to have recorded this amount of progress in the tree's recovery.



Some trunk details of this formidable female yew  
2013



2016



2023



A 2<sup>nd</sup> significant yew grows west of the church. It is a male tree with a large basal cavity through which internal growth can be viewed. Its girth was recorded in 2010 as 15' 0" at 1', 15' 10" at 2' and 16' 7" at 3'.

2010



2023



A grove of four younger yews grow north west of the church. The largest of these is female with a girth of 9' 3" at 1'. East of the church a female yew girthing about 10' is starting to hollow. All other yews were smaller.



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