

MADDINGTON

In the quiet Maddington area of Shrewton, Wiltshire, stands St Mary's Church - a testament to time. First recorded in 1179, altered in the 17th century, and lovingly restored between 1843 and 1853, it now rests in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust after being declared redundant in 1975.

Within its peaceful churchyard, seven yew trees keep watch. The most remarkable is a female yew west of the north entrance. She presents a puzzle of growth and decay: from high in her canopy, what looks like significant internal roots have taken root, while her outer trunk shows signs of rot. Measured just above the root crown, her girth is 8 feet 9 inches - a figure that doesn't account for the missing, decayed wood or her age, which must be significant.



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