

1818: *A Journey round the coast of Kent* - L.Fussell

'The churchyard is also marked by two yew trees of very unusual size, which are probably coeval with the building; and although hollow and decayed (their once lofty heads and widespreading branches being closely shorn by the hand of time) the renovating power of nature, which has thrown up shoots within the rind of the old trunks, bids fair for a protracted duration, at least as long as the fabric shall last, to which they have mutually afforded shade, and from which have derived shelter for so many ages.'

1845: *Fiddle-Faddle's Sentimental Tour*

'The church-yard is also remarkable for two yew-trees of very unusual size; that on the south side measuring more than seventeen feet in circumference near its base. These trees are probably coeval with the building, and although hollow and decayed, the renovating power of nature has thrown up shoots within the rind of the old trunks, and they bid fair to last as long as the fabric to which they have afforded, and from which they have, for all appearance, for many ages derived shelter. That on the north side measuring somewhat less than its contemporary, and, although like it, is a mere shell, and the substance almost entirely decayed, has a fine branching head, which seems yet to promise a lengthened duration.'

The yew on the south side of the church, is seen here in the 1856 sepia drawing held by Kentarchaeology.org.uk



The smaller yew, on the north side was presumably lost by 1865 when *The Illustrated Handbook* noted only one yew, describing 'a venerable porch at its southern entrance near which stands a remarkably fine yew tree.'

The photos from 1999 show a complex bole with hollows, large sapwood sections and internal growth. Dead wood can be seen high into the tree, whose crown appears to have been truncated at 16'20', above which emerge spindly branches. Foliage was sparse and dull.

Girth was recorded as follows: 17' exactly at the ground, 16' 10" at 3' and 17' 11" at 5'.

