

1880: The yew was noted in the *Journal of Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*. It was recorded as measuring 24' 6" at 4' in 1879.

In that year it was described by Richard Ussher as "quite hollow from the ground to some distance up, and does not appear to be in a flourishing state of health; it has evidently seen its best days."

Ussher also mentions a smaller yew, with a branch circumference of 150 feet.

The tree is not only acknowledged in the church guide, it also receives an unusual accolade: "The church is fortunate in having three great treasures - the magnificent, almost hollow yew tree....." This is the first time I have read of a yew taking precedence over windows and altar-tombs!

1983: The Reverend G.A.Chesterman informed Allen Meredith as follows. "Both trees have recently had to undergo 'major surgery'. In the case of the larger tree as a result of severe storm damage, whereas the smaller one lost its crown as a result of copper poisoning off the church roof. Both trees are now making steady progress. The large yew tree is now 24ft 6ins in girth at 4ft from the ground, the younger tree, planted in 1732 is 4ft 10ins in girth, very slow growth for 251 years."

The larger yew tree has obviously been hollow for several centuries or more as Victorian drawings and photographs show. The photograph is of the Revd. Rundle Fielden and the schoolmistress, Miss Coice, taking tea in the hollow.



1999: The female tree is an elongated shell of which 5' is dead wood. When this decays it will leave two fragment trees with a large space between. The photo shows an attempt to prevent further splitting apart. A small internal stem is visible to the right of the entrance and close to the trunk. Girth: 24' 6" at 4' and 22' 6" at the ground.



Edwin Pretty 2009



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