

In the past:

1848: 'In the churchyard is a yew-tree supposed to have been planted before the Norman conquest'.

*A Topographical Dictionary of England*

1860: 'The churchyard has a fine old yew-tree'. *Handbook for Travellers in Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire*

1883: 'There is a yew tree in the churchyard supposed to be a thousand years old.' *Kelly's directory of Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon.*

1944: 'The ancient yew with fluted trunk is a wreck, situated NW of the church'. *The King's England*

1999: The ground around this female yew has been cleared and covered with stones, which not only stifles competition from ivy, elder and nettles, but also enhanced the appearance of the tree. All that remains is half of a shell, the outside of which is fluted and with red bark. Foliage cover was sparse and many leaves discoloured. Girth was 17' 9" at 1' 6".

The tree has 3 main growth areas: A leans, with its many small branches growing parallel to the church. B supports new young growth while C provides the main growth with many tall and straight fluted branches. A visitor to the church told me the massive band at 6' broke her heart. There are further less conspicuous bands higher in the tree.

