

St Andrew's church dates from the early 13th century.

Its yew featured in *The Monthly Magazine* as long ago as 1796, when Richard Phillips recorded that 'A hollow yew-tree is now standing in Awre churchyard whose circumference four feet from the ground, is twenty-two feet five inches and its diametre upwards of seven feet'.

In 1913 Arthur O.Cooke wrote: 'For those who love old trees the greatest interest of the church may lie outside; for in the graveyard on the northern side is a most ancient yew. The trunk is quite hollow, with an opening through which a full-grown man may pass'. *Gloucestershire 5th Edition* J.C.Cox 1914
More of the trunk has been lost since this time for the gap on one side of the tree is now 4' wide.

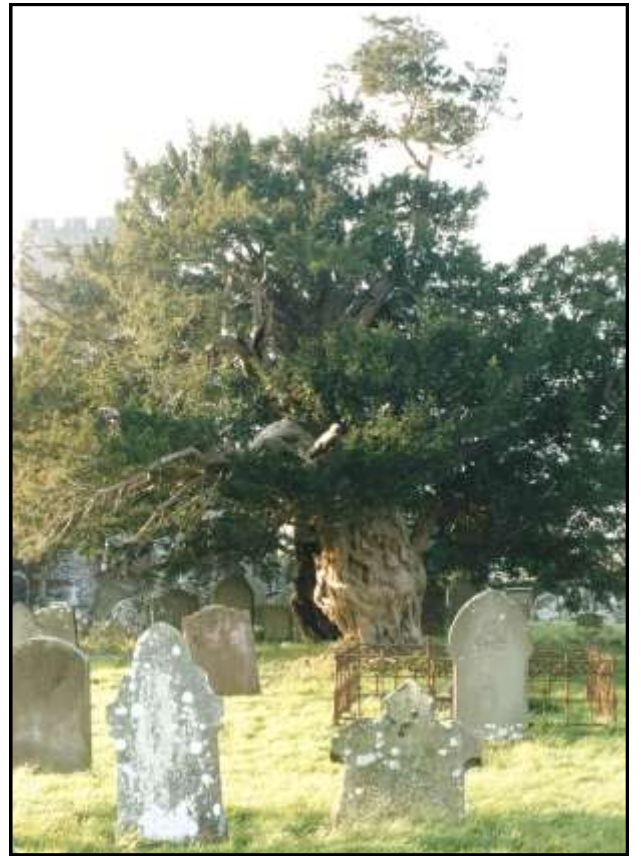
Cooke also noted a second yew growing by the churchyard gate, 'far from contemptible in size: a strip-ling not ill fitted to take up the burden of its ancient neighbour, and to carry down to a remote posterity traditions of the yews at Awre'. This stripling grows south of the church and girths about 11', suggesting an age of 200/300 years. There is no reason why it should lose its 'ancient neighbour' for many more centuries.

Awre's ancient yew is male and grows NE of the church. It has an unusual and distinctive grey bark. Above its two sections, joining at a height of 5'6", is a fine spread of branches. We are told that below this spreading tree are buried those 'fishermen who drowned in the river Severn in the days of the old Severn Trow sailing ships'. *The History of the County of Gloucester: Compressed and brought down to the year 1803 Vol II* by Revd Thomas Rudge, B.D. rector of St Michael, in Gloucester.



Girth records of the Awre Yew:

1793:	22' 5" at 4' (Phillips)
1986:	22' 9" at 4' (Meredith)
1998:	19' 11" at the base
	23' 6" at 3'
	20' 9" at 4' 6" (Hills)
2008:	20' 2" at the base
	23' 6" at 3' (Hills)
2014:	20' 6" with undulating tape close to the ground
	20' 10" at about 1' where 7 nails indicate the height (Peter Norton)



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