

This picture of the church and yew in 1805 was found in Tomkins' *Views of Reading Abbey, with those of the churches originally connected with it*. It illustrates how churchyards change over time. The table tomb seen in 1805 to the left of the yew is half covered by soil in 2015. This might be a result of the heavy stones gradually sinking into the soil, but in this case would seem to be a rising soil level, since the roots of the yew which can be seen in the 1805 drawing are now covered.



We first learned about this yew from information sent to David Bellamy in 1998 by Sue Lay, following a request for yew information in the *Country Living* magazine. It was noted that there were nine common yews and three Irish yews growing in the churchyard, and that the girth of the significant yew at that time was 16' 8" at 4' and 16' 7½" at 5'.

In 2013 Peter Norton recorded 16' 10" at 1' 6".

In 2015 I recorded exactly 18' at a height of about 20" where some nails had been hammered into the bole. I also recorded 17' 1" at 4'.

The tree is completely hollow, with internal growth. The chain which has been in situ for some time is at a height of about 8'9".





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