

We arrived at Boxwell in search of St Mary's well. In the 1928 book *The Ancient Wells, Springs and Holy Wells of Glos.* by Rupert Cavendish Skyring Walters it describes a spring that 'comes from under the two large yew trees. The presence of these trees, one on each side of the apparent point of outburst of the spring, is significant, for they are the only yew-trees in the neighbourhood. The well is marked on the 6 inch ordnance survey map as St Mary's Well. There was a nunnery at Boxwell'. Sadly this is no longer the case and two willows now mark the spot. We were told that two stumps (not of great size) could still be located, but several feet of brambles covered the site at the time of the November visit.

Although in 1928 the yews either side of the spring were described as 'the only yews in the neighbourhood', we must assume that this did not include the nearby churchyard. This is accessed along the private drive of an estate owned by the Huntley family.

2010: In the churchyard we found three male yews, including this fine hollow specimen. It grows south of the church and in spite of its small girth has many of the characteristics of a very old tree. The ground plan shows a possible line of the original bole. Remnants of white sapwood could be seen, and above head height were internal stems and large quantities of crumbling red heartwood. Girth was 13' 3" at 6".

