CAPEL Surrey

St John the Baptist

Diocese of Guildford

TQ176408

The yew was first noted by Straker in 1880 and given an estimated age of 600 years. This was part of a survey of Surrey yews from a paper read to the Croydon Society on 15th December 1880.

In 1911 'a fine old yew' was described in A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3.

I visited in July 1999. The hollow female yew grows east of the church and close to the churchyard entrance. Metal railings around it are broken and no longer serve a useful purpose. Its bole supports many large branches, including two unusually curved branches high in the tree and seen in the photo on the right. Foliage was green and plentiful.

Girth - ground 19' 9" including root bulge

| 1' 18' 3" | | • | |
|-----------|----|---|--------|
| | 1' | | 18' 3" |

- 3' 16' 11"
- 5' 17' 1" Just beneath limb



May 21st 2013 Peter Norton: The yew, surrounded by railings, grows close to the southeast lych-gate. There is a large basal cavity on the south side of the bole through which the hollow centre is easily viewed. On the north side of the bole there is a strip of white wood indicating where the next large cavity has already started. Foliage is a bit thin in places but branches have been allowed to sweep over the gravestones, adding character to this female yew. A girth of 17' 1" was obtained at 1' 6" from the top of the slope on the west side of the bole, where there was a natural waist line around the tree. Three young yews also grow here, a male opposite the porch with a girth of 8' 6" at 1', and a further two west of the church.





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