

1880: The photo shows that the tree was already well established when the church was built in 1870. The site was chosen by Lady Alford to overlook the mere and the yew tree has been within its boundary ever since. Although there are legends of a medieval chapel on the site, there is no historical evidence to back this up. Due to land drainage the water of the Mere is now a few hundred yards from the site, but according to local tradition the yew once marked the mooring point for boats.



A tithe map of 1839 gives the name Yew Tree Field to this site. Is this the yew in question, or did it replace an older one that once grew here? The trunk is about 13' in circumference at its base. It is a single column but there are hollows in it higher up where it forks. One or two big boughs have been cut off.

The early photo was taken by the Rev. H.E. Hodson who was Vicar at the time. The original is owned by Mrs. P. Edwards of Ellesmere. There are others in the collection but that is the only one showing the complete tree. The Church owns a small woodland to the north of the church in which all the yew saplings have been gathered into a yew nursery.

Information and photo supplied by Christopher Jobson
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