

St James the Great is a Norman church. Its 'fine yew-tree' was first noted in the 1850 *Ecclesiastical and architectural topography of England*. Nearly a century later it was described in Mee's *King's England* (c1940) as simply a 'good old yew in the churchyard'.

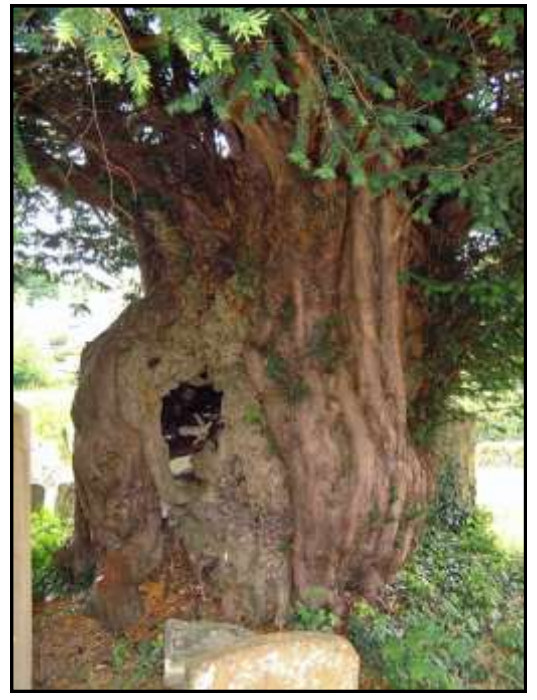
The church guide notes a girth of 19½' and states that the tree has been 'professionally estimated to be over 1,000 years old'. This estimate age would seem to have originated from the *Gazetteer in The Sacred Yew* (1994). The tree is more likely to be several centuries younger than this.

1999 - Tim Hills: The female yew grows close to the church's south porch. Much of its fluted bole was hidden behind twiggy and adventitious growth. The removal of a large branch that grew towards the church has resulted in a hollow space 3' from top to bottom and 3' deep. Much of the foliage was yellow and thin throughout the tree, Girths of about 17' 6" at the ground and 20' 3" at 3' were recorded.

2014 - Peter Norton: The fine female yew grows close to the south porch. It has lost one large branch which has allowed rot to set in and the tree is now fully hollow. No indication of any internal stems and the hollow space has been filled with thick clay like soil to almost 3ft in height. Girth was recoded as 17' 11" at the ground on the east side and at the root crown on the west side of the tree.



Geoff Garlick was fortunate to visit the yew in 2005, at a time when it was looking at its finest and the detail on its old bole could be appreciated.



When Peter Norton visited in 2014 ivy was beginning to hide most of this detail.



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