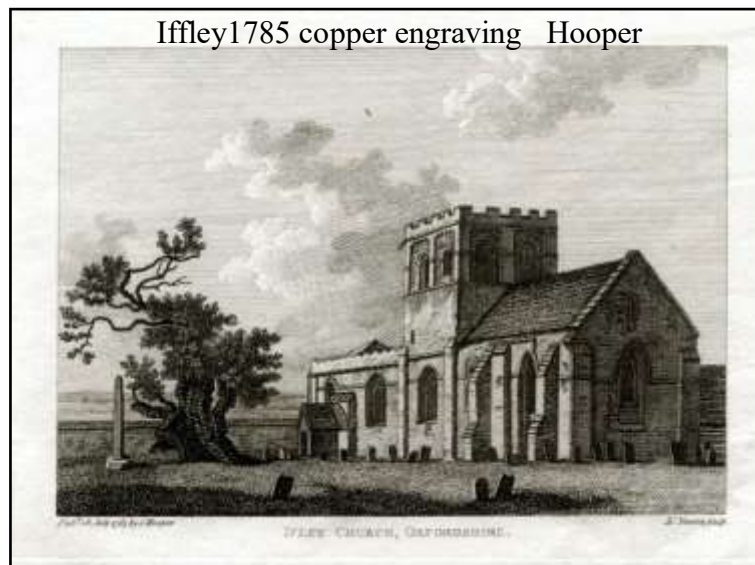


The church of is situated in a walled churchyard at the end of the village.

The following extract is from *Arboretum and Fruticetum part 111* in 1838. 'The Iffley Yew stands in Iffley churchyard, near Oxford, nearly opposite the south-east corner of the church, and between that and an ancient cross. This tree is supposed to be coeval with the church, which, it is believed, was built previously to the Norman conquest. The dimensions of the tree, kindly taken for us in September, 1830, by Mr. Baxter, were as follows : Girth of the trunk, at 2 ft. from the ground, 20 ft., and at 4ft. from the ground, where the branches begin, 17ft. The trunk is now little more than a shell, and there is an opening on the east side of the tree which is 4 ft. high, and about 4 ft. in width ; the cavity within is 7 ft. long, 4ft. wide, and 4ft. high in the highest part. The height of the tree is 22 ft.; and there are about 20 principal branches, all of which, except two, are in a very vigorous and flourishing state. The diameter of the head is 25 ft. each way. A very good, but very small, figure of this tree may be seen in the south-west view of Iffley church, given in the Memorials of Oxford, No. 31. It is also seen in a woodcut of the north-cast view, close to the corner of the chancel, in the same work'.



Although the trunk was 'little more than a shell' and height only 22ft, the 1860 *Handbook for Travellers in Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire* called it a 'magnificent yew tree'.

1886 The *Flora of Oxfordshire* reported the large yew at Iffley to be considered as old as the church itself, over 700 years old.

The 1892 *Chambers Journal* described 'an ancient tree, whose furrowed half -prostrate trunk seems 'weary worn with care', and as we stand beside its bending form, a feeling of sympathy, akin to that which we extend to a fellow human being stooping low with a load of years, rises within us. The yew... must have been full-grown long before the first Oxford spire was raised in the vale below'.



1998: The female yew grows SE of the church. Its height would appear to have been maintained at a constant 20'/25' from 1836 to the present day. Part of its base has been filled with concrete. Obtaining a girth measurement was not possible, but Lowe (1894) gives an indication of its size, recording 25' at the ground and 22' at 2'.

Peter Norton photographed the bole in 2013



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