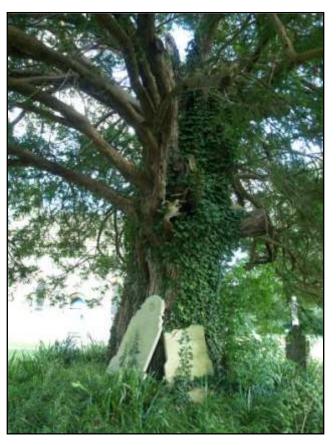
31st July 2015: The church dates from the 13th century, though this place was known about in Roman times. The yew, which grows SE of the church, is an exceptional fragment of a tree whose original size we can only guess at. The whole structure, which leans slightly, supports a large number of branches filled with thick and healthy foliage. Propped inside the tree is a stone containing the lines reproduced below. Girth of this hollow yew was 15' 6½" at 1'. Also in churchyard, SW of the tower, is a 6' high bushy yew, probably planted to celebrate the millennium.





Here stands a tree long past its prime, yet still Most wonderfully hale and vigorous; Centuries are trifles wherewith to tell The glorious story of its lengthy days; As well attempt a colosseum huge With golden sands from off the sea-swept shore As herald its triumphant battle with The ephemeral things we mis-name time. Time! It mocks at time and all the puny race Of men, long since passed in generations To the land beyond this vale of sorrow-While its umbrageous branches, vernal yet And glowing with the strength and sap of life, Seem to defy the raging tempest and The thing called death – To work their worst abuse. As phoenix like from glowing ashes rise Its wonted fires, as ever on it lives Co-equal with – and of – eternity.



1863 - 1936

JOHN HUGH CHALKER