

31<sup>st</sup> 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.

JOHN HUGH CHALKER 1863 - 1936

