

The yew is first reported in *Favourite Haunts and Rural Studies* by Edward Jesse 1847: 'The first thing that strikes a stranger on entering the churchyard of Langley, is a magnificent old yew tree, which appears coeval with the ancient church itself. It is much decayed about the stem, but still its branches flourish, and with the care lately bestowed upon it, it may live for many years to come. When it is considered that the yew is a slow-growing tree, the one in question is probably at least from 800 to 1000 years old. I love to look on these old relics. They carry the mind back to bygone times, when the rude forefathers of the village assembled under their shade, and adorned their churches, or religious festivals, with their verdant foliage. It is, indeed, a noble and interesting tree, and measures more round the trunk than any other yew I have yet met with'.

1999: I recorded a short and squat male yew split into two fragments. A series of chains, most of which serve no purpose, have in the past prevented the fragments from pulling further apart. A broken fence surrounded most of the tree, and access was denied to the unfenced part by a large monument to Frances Lina who died in 1818. Both fragments had been damaged by fire or smoke. That closest to the church leans and divides into two main and a third lesser branch. The other, which leans towards the road, had a rising hollow trunk with a substantial branch dividing from it at 4'. Many large branches have been cut from this fragment. Girth was 23' 3" at the ground.



In 2015 Peter Norton added the following notes and photographs:

The churchyard contains 10 yews of which 5 grow along the north perimeter and 5 are south of the church. 9 of these yews are between 9' to 10' in girth.

The ancient yew grows near the southwest corner of the church and once was surrounded by iron railings. It is a male tree that has fragmented into two distinct halves. The tree has three main leaders and all are hollow as is the remainder of the tree. Two of these leaders are held in place with chains high in the canopy. A girth of 23' 2" at about 1' was recorded.







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