

The tiny Norman church stands on what was once the bailey platform of a small motte and bailey castle.

On February 14th 1947, the Reverend Parrott, Vicar of Little Ness, reported damage to a Tumulus near his church caused by Mr Davies, a local farmer, when he cut down a yew tree. The reason the Rev. Parrott was concerned about this minor mound is interesting, for he believed that it was not a motte but a burial mound and that it was here that Cynddylan was buried after a bloody battle against the Saxons at nearby Baschurch.



This watercolour was painted by Rev. Williams on 13th July 1790. It is shown here with permission of Shropshire Archives, 6001/372/2 (24/637) Donor ref. 00012348. It clearly shows the yews SW and NE that are recorded below. Since the painting many more yews have been planted and in 2007 the churchyard was ringed with no fewer than 21 yews. The two significant yews are male and 14 of the remaining 19 were female.

The yew growing NE is a solid looking tree but had small amounts of concrete filling at the base of the tree. Girth was 16' 2" between 6" and 1'.





To the SW is a yew on sloping ground with a girth of 15' 8". This one is hollow, with a piece of frame indicating that a small door was once fixed to the tree. The hollow closes over completely at a height of about 8'.



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