LLANDDEWI FACH (Cwm) St David

Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

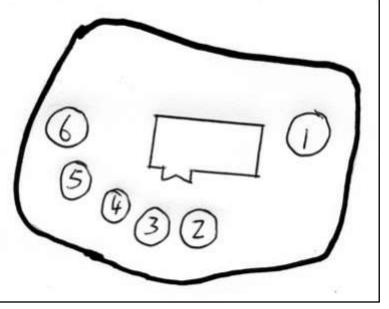
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Little is known of the origin of this remote church, situated in a small circular churchyard in a cramped situation on the side of a hill. Access is across fields from nearby Cwm farm. The hard work of those who prevent this churchyard from becoming overgrown was appreciated.

2005: Six yews grow here, all difficult to measure due to the uneven ground and badger activity. All the trees had much twiggy growth on their boles.

In 2015 Paul Wood found the churchyard much overgrown.

The significant trees are numbers 1, 2, 5 and 6 on the plan, while trees 3 and 4 are small girthed specimens.



Three of the yews here are classified as Veteran, the largest of these being number 6 which grows by the perimeter wall west of the church. An opening in its western face reveals internal growth. Girth was 20' 10" close to the ground in 2005, but the tree has been larger.

In June 2007 Russell Cleaver recorded a girth of 21' for the 'tree with a large cavity displaying an internal aerial root'.

In July 2015 Paul Wood also considered that this yew has been larger in girth. A measurement at the ground was 21' 4" (6.50). Badger activity is making the tree very exposed with a large hole at the root crown and there are other holes disappearing off towards the tree. One side of the yew appears to have once rotted away but has since had regrowth, creating the horseshoe shape. The other side has extensive twiggy growth.





Tree 1 grows east of the church. It is of solid appearance with twiggy growth from 6" upwards obscuring much of the lower part of the tree. It had a large central branch. It is seen (left) in 2005 when its girth was 19' 11" at the ground.



In 2015 Paul Wood measure the male yew with difficulty at ground level, and recorded a girth of 21' 4" (6.50m). He recorded it as extremely twiggy and multi branched but solid. Of note was a roll of wire that was leant against the tree some time ago and is now unmovable as it is slowly swallowed up by the tree.



June 2007- Russell Cleaver - girth of 20' 7" recorded – presumably at the ground.

2005: Tree 2, rather scrappy in appearance, grows close to the porch on the S side. Closer inspection shows that it once formed part of the wall between churchyard and field. Girth was 19' 5" at the ground - or 3' where the ground drops away.

June 2007 - Russell Cleaver - girth of 20' 8" recorded and much rot evident.

July 2015 Paul Wood: At the time of his visit it was being used as the churchyard dump. A few graves around this tree have opened up due to animal action and subsidence, and many bones lay around the tree. Due to the poor condition of the ground and extensive twiggy growth and nettles it could not be measured. In spite of many rotting branches it appeared to be growing well. At the foot of the tree was a visible curving dry stone wall which may be the original churchyard boundary. It appeared to me that the original level of the churchyard may be a metre beneath the current ground level.









Tree 5 is a notable yew with a girth of 12' 8" at 1' in 2005. It grows west of the church.

2015 Paul Wood: The tree is growing well (photos below). Erosion suggests that it may have once been larger girthed. We recorded 13' 2" (4.01m) at the ground. In June 2007 Russell Cleaver recorded a girth of 12' 2".





Tree 3 (below left) had a girth of 7' 1" (2.16m) at the ground and tree 4 (right) a girth of 7' 10" (2.39m) at the ground in 2015.



