

St Elli's church is situated on high ground and was built between 1150 and 1250 . Yews at this site have been noted for more than 200 years.

1806: 'The churchyard is small, surrounded by a verge of very large yew trees, which in this very exposed situation, is a fortunate circumstance for the building, as it would otherwise be in danger of suffering from strong weather'. HT Payne *Parochial notes of the deanery of the third part of Brecknock*

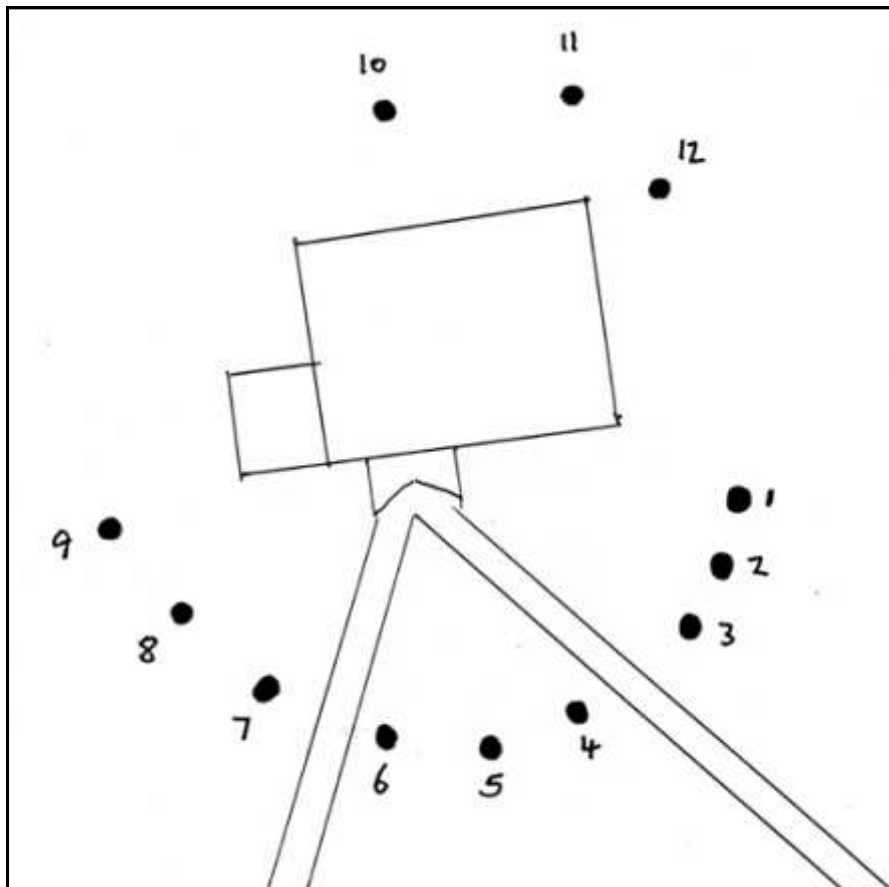
1811: '...some venerable yew trees'. Carlisle's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*

1834 : '.....the churchyard is enclosed by yew trees of ancient growth'. *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* Lewis.

1946: In *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality*, Cornish recorded that 13 yews remained, the gaps denoting that there were originally 18.

1992: In *The Eternal Yew*, Baxter described 16 yews encircling the church, of which he considered 13 to be ancient, possibly even older than the present church. He had been informed that 3 yews were replaced after losses in the storms of 1947.

2012: While the trees are not of immense stature, most are hollow and they are undoubtedly of great age. All are classified as Veteran. This is a fine example of a circular churchyard which Baxter considered to be Saxon/ Medieval, possibly 'the continuation of use of an ancient mound or stockade, left from a time when the veneration of trees was part of the cult of worship'.





Tree 1

18' 3" at 1'. Solid all round except for one open section where a large branch once grew towards the church. This is full of decaying heartwood.



Tree 2

16' 6" at the ground. Hollows all round, with the main gap a little more than a metre across. There is no complete circle of growth until a height of about 10'.



Tree 3

11' 11" at 1'. Its hollow is filled with a jumble of internal growth.



Tree 4

12' 8" at 2' from the higher ground. The side seen here is hollow with internal stems. On the other are bulgy roots.





Tree 5

14' an indication of this tree's girth. Hollow with internal stems.



Tree 6

13' 11". Its hollow is almost completely filled with internal growth. Many branches which would have interfered with the path have been removed.



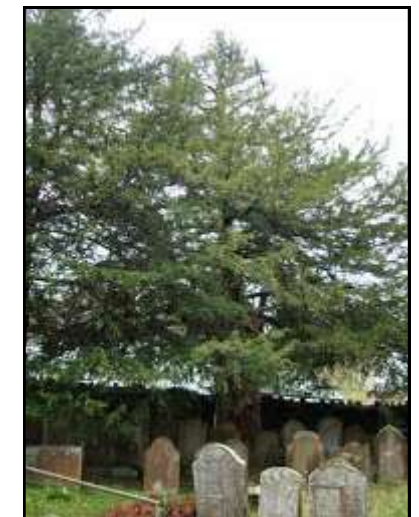
Tree 7

13' 9" at 1', but it would be difficult to reproduce this measurement. Twin trunked above 6' height. One fine piece of old sap wood is acting as support for a new tall branch.



Tree 8

14' 6" between 1' and 1' 6". Hollow on the side facing the wall, with thick internal stems. Twin trunked with that on the left facing the church truncated at a height of about 25'.





Tree 9

16' 11" close to the ground. A large portion of the tree bulges outwards from the ground. Close examination reveals it to be completely hollow with a thin skin. It is filled to the height of 3/4' with dead leaves etc.



Tree 10

14' 4" at 1'. Hollow, surrounded by an almost complete circle of living wood



Tree 11

11' 11" at 1'. Hollow with convoluted internal stems.



Tree 12

20' 9" at or close to the ground. It would be difficult to reproduce this measurement.

