

In 1903 Horsfall-Turner described the church as 'almost overtopped by the branches of a venerable yew of seven or eight yards [640-730cm] circumference, built around the base with rough masonry'.

Notes from Arthur O.Chater 1999: 'This female tree, still surrounded by its retaining wall and in fine health, was 693cm girth (at the base) in 1980 and 714cm (at the base) in 2004 (and 774cm girth at 1.5m up where it is branched into two), and has the greatest girth of any single, intact trunk of Yew in the county. In 1933 heavy snow broke many of the branches and the tree was tidied up by the local blacksmith who reputedly took more wood from it than he should have'.

At the time of my visit in 1999, the land around the dry stone wall was littered with sacks, planks of wood, corrugated iron, metal bars and stones (right).

The tree consists of 2 large trunks joined for the first 3/4'. Each supports many branches which dip all around the tree to about 6' from the ground. This is one of many yews where a gradual build up of soil around the bole has led to the eventual construction of a containing wall. The base of the tree is several feet below what we see here, and we will probably never know just how large this tree once was.

By 2005 the area surrounding the tree had been cleared giving the yew its rightful pride of place in the churchyard. Girth at the base though twiggy growth was about 24'.

photo below - Geoff Garlick 2005

