

Llanlleonfel Church is situated on an ancient hilltop site in a circular enclosure. It was restored by RJ Withers in 1874.



Copies of this picture were on sale in the church, but did not acknowledge the artist or date of the sketch. It is sadly the last record of the living tree, complete with branches and foliage, before it was 'tidied and made safe'. I was told in writing that it had 'in recent years become very overgrown and was obscuring some gravestones as well as making the entrance to the church rather dark. Concern had also been expressed about some of the limbs of the tree and the possibility of them falling on someone visiting the church'.

I was told that a local woodsman had been employed to 'tidy the tree and make it safe. His work was a little more drastic than anticipated'.

At the time of my visit in August 1999 the work had only recently been completed. The large stump had a few green shoots and I asked that it should be left since the tree might recover. I was assured, again in writing, that 'the intention is not to fell it'.



Three years later, in 2002, I visited to see how the green shoots had developed, only to find an overgrown mound with a young yew planted in the centre of the few remaining inches of stump. The rest of the bole lay on the ground awaiting removal.

