

The yew was first reported in 1862 when James Joseph Sheahan's *History and topography of Buckinghamshire* noted 'a very old yew tree'. A Victorian clergyman is buried beneath the tree, with this verse found in the church by the pulpit.

"Beneath the shelter of the Yew tree's shade
A little harmless rhyming priest is laid.
He loved his life, though not of death afraid
And he loved his Maker, though so strangely made."

The following has been taken from the Hemel Gazette (08/02/2007): 'The ancient yew tree towers over St Lawrence church in Nettleden. It was adopted in 1988 by a national conservation campaign launched by David Bellamy to protect ancient yews. A certificate, signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, was awarded at the time to the local community. The church was built in 1470 and it is believed that the tree was planted at a similar time. With the impressive girth of 5.02 metres, the giant is more than 600 years old and treasured by parishioners'.

2001: The female yew grows SE of the church and comprises four straight upright branches which divide from its fluted bole at 10/12'. Its girth of 16' 1" at 1' and 16' 3" at 5' fits well with a 1470 planting date. 12 clipped yews line the path leading to the church door.



photos Geoff Garlick 2006