

Pauntley is the home of Dick Whittington, the 'starting-point of his journey to immortality'. The church has a fine Norman door and an unusually sited porch on the north side, while Whittington's arms can be seen in the west window of the tower.

The earliest record of the yew is contained in one of 5 *views of Pauntley Church* taken in 1881, in which the male yew is seen spreading outwards from close to the ground, while a single branch pushes upwards through the low growth.

In the *Gazetteer in The Sacred Yew* (1994) the tree is given a girth of 24' and an estimated age of 1500 years by Allen Meredith. There is no evidence to support such a high age.



1998: I found half of the trunk's surface area obscured by ivy and twiggly growth, as well as evidence of fire/smoke damage. From a hollow area 10' up in the tree I was able to look downwards into an inaccessible space above ground level which would otherwise be large enough for several people to stand in. Girths of 25' 3" at the base and 26' 5" at 3' were recorded.

By the time of Geoff Garlick's visit in 2006 the ivy had been removed and he was able to photograph a fine bole.

In 2014 Peter Norton recorded a girth of 25' 6" from beneath the bulge and incorporating the root crown. He took the photos below and also noted a younger unmeasurable female yew close to the east wall of the church.





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