

St Nicholas church can be traced back to Norman times, though most of it is now 19th century. It is accessed along a private road.

In the past:

A 'fine old yew tree' was first noted in Cox's *Little Guides* 1903.

In 1936 *The King's England* described it as an 'immense double yew perhaps 600 years old'.

In 1958 Allen and Jewell gave a more detailed description: 'The short squat trunk is split and hollow. There are 7 or 8 stout vertical limbs at about 8 to 10'; they appear to grow out of the rim of the original trunk. Several horizontal branches have been cut off, the branches are growing vertically from some of the cut surfaces, giving the tree a richly branched appearance'. A girth of 26' 6" at 2' 6" was recorded at this time for Swanton's *The Yew Trees of England*.

In 1998 I recorded a male yew split into two distinct sections that could be walked between. The larger (right) is many branched, two rising vertically while others of lesser size spray out at all angles. The smaller section (left) sustains much lateral growth.

My overall impression was of a tree lacking in vigour; with many smaller branches containing no life. The most vibrant colour was on twiggy growth near the base of the tree. I was informed that it had suffered severe damage in the hurricane of 1987 and was still recovering. Girth was about 23' close to the ground.



In 2013, when the following photos were taken, Peter Norton was unable to measure through the undergrowth. He noted that the centre of the tree was filled with grass cuttings to a height greater than 2'. This is a poor way to treat such a tree. Foliage was thin and a few of the smaller branches were dead.







© Tim Hills/Peter Norton - Ancient Yew Group - 2019