

All Saints church is of Norman origin. In 1895 two yews were recorded, one with a 'hollow, bulging trunk', the other having a 'clear straight stem'. *The Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland* - Lowe

In *A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 3* of 1908 'two very fine yew-trees' were described, 'that on the south of the church being specially notable, even in a district where nearly every parish can show a large tree of the kind, confidently claiming for it the conventional thousand years of growth'.

The 1939 *King's England* reported that 'a group of splendid yews stands sentinel by the captivating little church'.

In 1952 Swanton's *Yew Trees of England* recorded '2 male yews, both protected by chestnut fencing 4' high. The hollow trunk (of the larger) has spray on the east side and contains unsightly rubbish. Its crown consists of 3 branches'.

In 1990 the yew growing NW of the church was blown down in a gale.

1998: The surviving male yew grows only 2 metres from a new church extension, which will affect the direction of future branch development. The tree was sufficiently hollow to get inside through a gap, about 16" wide at the ground and closing over at a height of 5'. From the inside, daylight was visible through many holes and gaps. Here was much convoluted dead sapwood, some being enveloped by new growth, and a small internal stem which could be followed upwards to a height of about 15'. The hole at (A), about 6' above the ground, is about 3' across, and marks the position of a large lost branch. I identified three main growth areas, all leaning outwards and at one time held together by metal banding which no longer appeared to be serving any purpose. There was evidence of a small amount of filling with concrete.



The size of this old yew would suggest a Norman planting, and the estimated age of 1500 in Meredith's *Gazetteer* in *The Sacred Yew* has no justification.

Girth records:

1895: 19' 6" at 3' with a bole height of 6' 6" - Lowe

1952: 21' - Swanton

1998: 22' 3" at the ground and 23' 2" at 3' (from top of mound) - Tim Hills

2011: 22' 8" near to the ground, 22' 8" at 1', 23' 2" at 2' and 23' 8" at 3' – heights as recorded from the top of the mound before it slopes away.

Peter Norton



Below are some of Peter Norton's photos taken in 2011



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