

There has been a church at Thanington for more than 750 years. Writing in *The King's England* in 1936, Mee thought that 'we should not be surprised if the old yew was there when it was built: if flourishes still'.

The 1853 Saunders' sepia drawing shows the yew with a seat around it, a tradition that has been maintained to the present day. The 'large yew' was noted in R.J. King's 1863 *Handbook for travellers in Kent and Sussex*.



In July 2002 the male yew has become two fragment trees, separated by a gap of 2'3" on one side, while a section of dead sapwood (A) from the original trunk fills much of the 3' gap on the other. Each supports many branches which carry fine, healthy foliage. Black staining to the interior suggested fire or smoke damage, yet the large internal stem (B), which feeds into the trunk closest to the road, was not affected.

These two fragments are held together at 6' and 9' by covered metal wires, gradually being swallowed up by new layers of growth.

Girth: 20' 1" at 3'. A similar figure would be obtained at 1' and 5'.

