

The church dates from 1060 and described as 'all the more valuable and interesting as it has escaped the restorer'.

In the past:

The yew's clipped shape can be traced back to 1840 and possibly earlier.

1848: *A Topographical Dictionary of England* - 'In the churchyard is an extraordinary yew-tree'.

1865: *A handbook for travellers in Surrey, Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight* by King and Murray called it 'a magnificent yew'.

1908: '.... in the churchyard is a fine yew-tree, which according to local tradition is between four and five hundred years old'. *A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 3*

1909: The yew was described as 'the chief object of pilgrimage for visitors to the churchyard and church in Ball and Varley's *Hampshire*'.

1954: 'It is on the north side of the present church.....It is clipped annually, and there is no ceremony. There is a tradition of centuries of clipping. Just before the war it was examined by experts, who placed its age at 600 years at least, but its growth might have been stunted a bit by centuries of clipping, so it might be older'. Swanton - informed by the Rev JR Beynon in October 1954.



1999: Formerly trimmed to the shape of a triangle, the clipped yew has become more rounded. It has a well maintained seat around it and thick foliage which would provide shelter in the heaviest cloudburst. Girth taken at the top of the seat around its bulge was 20', but at its narrow waist only 13' 8". When Rev. Beynon measured it in 1954 its girth was 13'.



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