

2016 Toby Hindson: The present church was built in 1881 on the site of a former church consecrated in 1558, a significant time after it was built. The previous church, on a nearby site, was destroyed by the Scots shortly after 1474. These tree fall into the gap between these two dates, and will have had some age when they were planted. This would make them certainly about 500 years old, not significantly less, and no older than 550 years. The trees were first recorded by Graham Wilkinson in 1997. In 2009 Edwin Pretty noted this as a very exposed location, explaining the low vigour of the trees. Also in the churchyard are two younger yews on the road boundary that are clearly late Victorian plantings, as well as several sapling yews among the other trees on the side track boundary. There is a large *Taxus aurea* south of the church and two small Irish yews.

The most obvious of the three yews at this site is this male tree growing south of the church. It has always been considered to be the largest of the trio, but this is not so. It was first measured by Graham Wilkinson in 1997, recording a girth of 442cm at the base. In nineteen years it has increased by just 8cm to 450 when measured at the same place. The bole is 90cm high with one major upright offset from centre on the church side of the tree. The remainder of the canopy consists of more horizontal branches and some dead vertical material. The tree is located on a mound on an old boundary ridge with a new path below it. Wilkinson described it in 1997 as 'a splendid, gnarled tree, but no hollowing'. He also noted a 1745 slab about 4' away from the tree.



Toby Hindson 2016



Graham Wilkinson 1997



Graham Wilkinson 1998



Edwin Pretty 2009

This male yew grows in the old southwest corner of the churchyard, and had a girth of 496cm at the base (root crown) in 2016. It was very difficult to measure because it has low side branches and is used as cover for an old shed and junk. This possibly explains why it has not been measured or properly noticed before. The canopy was thin, and shaped by the wind. Its bole is columnar to c3m, then multiple upright stems.



Toby Hindson 2016



Edwin Pretty 2009

The female yew grows in the west churchyard corner by the gate at the bottom of the side track to the church. It is a strange yew, and has evidently been substantially held back by an enormous beech tree, the rotted stump of which is still extant. There is much burr wood, and the tree has a lean away from the beech stump. The girth in 2016 is 391cm at the root crown. It has apparently increased at c1.2cm per year since Graham Wilkinson measured it in 1997 (368cm), probably as a result of removal of the shade from the beech tree. There is an oil tank under the canopy. A small yew has been planted (c15 years old) on the boundary near it, right by the churchyard gate.



Edwin Pretty 2009



Toby Hindson 2016