

This yew was first noted in 1791 in Collinson's *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset* as 'a large and very ancient yew tree'. At that time it presumably stood upright. One side of the tree was then lost and the standing fragment began to lean. Normally this might lead to complete loss of a tree that is considered unsafe. It is Churchill's good fortune that somebody understood the yew and recognised that propping would enable the tree to live for centuries more.

In 1954 Rev. R.K.Pagett sent Swanton information for his book *The Yew trees of England*: 'Trunk hollow, crown intact. It leans to the south west and is heavily propped'. Girth 15' 6" at 3'.

The 2 photos are from 2000, when I recorded the female yew growing at the SE corner of the churchyard. Its two sections of bole (separated by a narrow gash) grow together at a height of about 8', from where there is an outpouring of branches. Some had been removed to prevent tangling with telegraph wires. Though foliage was sparse there was sufficient new growth for the tree to continue to flourish. I measured allowing for the lean and recorded about 15'.





The ancient yew is seen below in 2015. A nearby holly tree was becoming too well established. A yew such as this does not need competition.



Two further yews are recorded in the churchyard in 2015. Tree 2 is male and grows SW of the church. It has a girth of 12' 9" at about 1' which will be difficult to replicate since the ground is raised on one side. It has multiple spreading branches above its 5'6" bole.

Tree 3 is male and grows NE of the church. It has a clean straight trunk to a height of about 7' where numerous small branches develop. Girth was 5' 10" at 3'.

