

HALSE St James the Less ST13992774 1st July 2015

In a huge churchyard, many different tree species grow at the perimeter on the south side. Among these are two yews with girths of approximately 5' 6" and 7'. A third yew grew in line with these two but a barbed wire fence now places it on the adjoining farmland. No photos.

HAMBRIDGE St James the Less ST39272096 29th September 2015



The most significant yew, seen here, grows at the east end of the church. It is female with 4 thick branches. Some of these on the east side, away from the church, have been allowed to dip and touch the ground. Girth was close to 15'.

On the north side at the west end is a male yew with numerous low branches and a girth of 4' 5'.

On the SW perimeter is a scrappy male with thin foliage and a girth of about 3'.



HASELBURY PLUCKNETT St Michael and All Angels ST4713610927 10th November 2016



Four yews grow here. The tree on the left, SW of the church, is an ivy clad male. This was thick enough to affect girth, which was exactly 10' at the ground. It is many branched from a height of 6' 7'.

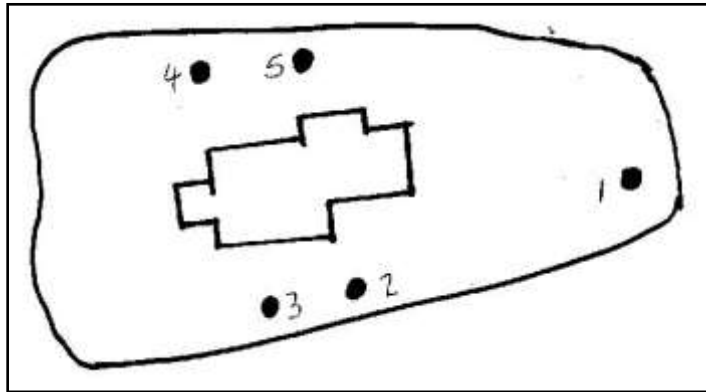
The tree in the centre is an ivy clad female NW of the church. It has a central core with many stems around its edge, adding to its girth. In 2007 I recorded 13' 7" at the ground and in 2016 girth was 15' between the ground and 6", a figure much affected by ivy.

The tree above right grows NE of the church. Girth was 10' 0 1/2" at 2'. It branches from 8' and above – growing upwards on thicker branches and outwards on thinner.

This young yew north of the church was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme or to celebrate the millennium. It leans considerably for the first foot, above which many upright branches develop. It was prolifically male in the development of its pollen sacs. Girth was 1' 2" close to the ground.



One yew forms part of a mixed hedge by the path leading to the church. Next to the path but now outside the official church grounds in a car park area is a young female yew.



Five yews grow here.

Yew 1 (left) is female at the east end perimeter wall. It is multi stemmed and also has new shoots appearing nearby that clearly grow from the same root stock. Estimated girth was about 8'.

Yew 2, female, grows on the south side among other tree species. Many stemmed, it was difficult to decide whether this was one or two trees.

Yew 3 has twiggy branches from low down. No girth was recorded.

Yew 4, male, grows NW of tower. It is many branched from low on the tree.

Yew 5 (right) has many new stems attached to the edges of its trunk. These will eventually swell its girth. Without including these, girth was about 12'. Its main trunk divides at a height of about 4' into numerous thick branches.

West of the tower on the south side are clipped yews, both Irish and common or European yews. The tree on the left is cut off at a height of about 6'. It was not possible to measure but it appeared to be about 3' in girth.

A second, and much larger clipped common yew grows south of the church. This one is cut off at a height of about 5' and had a girth of about 8' 6". There was Chicken of the Woods fungus at the base of the tree.

Six clipped Irish Yews make an avenue leading towards the church from the road.

Two further clipped Irish Yews grow at the east end of the churchyard at the entrance to an adjacent farm. Here are also two yew stumps with girths just under 8'. Were they cut down because they were too close to the farm?



HENSTRIDGE St Nicholas ST7227819762 5th March 2015

Three yews grow here (no photos). A female yew at east end of churchyard had a girth of 7' 8½" at 1'. On the north side was a straggly nondescript male with many stems from low down. South of the church a foot-path leads towards a large graveyard. Here is a young male girthing 2' 8½" at 6". All of its lower branches had been removed in an attempt to create a more upright tree.

HEWISH Good Shepherd ST4207908143 3rd November 2016



In spite of the lack of space one yew grows SE of this church, which is aligned N/S. The tree is female with many upright stems.



HIGHBRIDGE St John the Evangelist ST3197847631 1st October 2015

There is nothing growing in the present churchyard. A yew that was once within the churchyard boundary is now in a playground area. It is female and appeared to have a girth of 6'8". It has been much cut to prevent it getting tall. A second yew, multi stemmed, grows in the adjacent vicarage grounds.

HILLFARRANCE Holy Cross ST16742463 17th September 2015

This fine male yew grows on the south side close to the church porch. It has a trunk of 5'6" before the development of a central and many more thick branches. On the south side of the tree are low limbs from a height of 3' and upwards. Girth was 11' 1½" at 1'.



HINTON BLEWETT St Margaret ST594355700 10th February 2003 and 27^h June 2015

In 2003 we were looking in the SE corner of the churchyard for 'a fine old yew tree, said to date from the time of Henry VIII' (*1916 West Country churches*). Sadly all that remained of this tree were a few pieces of stump. These were found east of the church by a vent in the pub wall and on a slight mound. In the pub I saw old photos which included some of the lost yew's branches. I was told that the tree came down in the 1920s.

Two younger yews still grow here. The largest (right) is a male SW of the church. In 2003 it had a girth of 8' 8" at 3', increasing to 9' 1" at 3' in 2015, an increase of 5" in 12 years. Embedded in it is a stone to Valentine Dudden, who died in November 1892.

A smaller female growing to the west had a girth of 6' 10" at 2' in 2015.

In the nearby 'old rectory' garden is a male yew that looked about 9/10' in girth.



HINTON CHARTERHOUSE St John the Baptist ST7765458306 5th August 2016

On the south side of the church is a particularly large clipped yew (left).

At the eastern edge of the churchyard is an avenue of yews planted over 100 years ago. I counted at least 31 living trees and 2 stumps. If there is a known planting date for this avenue, then the trees, which exhibit a wide variety of forms, will provide useful information about growth rates.



HOLCOMBE NEW CHURCH St Andrew ST6716449676 21st September 2016

The church was built in 1885. The male yew grows SE of the church. When I visited in 1998 its many sprawling trunks were clearly visible. It is seen here in 2016, surrounded by ivy, brambles and holly. Measurement was not possible.



HORNBLUTTON St Peter ST59153415 31st July 2015

Two yews grow here: A male yew NW of the church had a girth of about 9' 6" close to the ground. In a few years time numerous right angled shoots will thicken and make it difficult to get close to the tree. A small female yew with an estimated girth of about 4' grows SW of the church close to the large garden of an adjacent property (no photos).



Three yews grow here. The largest (left) is at the churchyard entrance, NE of the church. Its trunk develops at a height of 5'6" into many thick branches. Girth above its roots was 9' 11" at about 1'.

SE of the church is a messy looking tree with much twiginess and ivy (no photo).

Due north of the tower in a corner of the churchyard is a young yew (right). It was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme or to celebrate the millennium. It is many branched from low down.



HORTON St Peter ST32401491 29th September 2015

This 3'4" high bushy yew was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme or to celebrate the Millennium. It is multi branched from low down.



HUIISH CHAMPFLOWER St Peter ST04912921 26th October 2015

Here is a multi stemmed young female yew competing with other vegetation.



HUIISH EPISCOPI (Langport) St Mary ST4271426628 12th October 2016

A young female yew (left) grows at the SW entrance to the churchyard close to the perimeter wall. It consists

of several upright branches from low on the trunk. Girth over ivy was just under 5'.

On the right is an even younger female yew with a single stem and right angled branching from just above ground level. Girth appeared to be about 18"/24".

