

MAPERTON St Peter and St Paul ST6720826145 2nd June 2016

Three yews, one male and two female, grow by the west gate into the churchyard (left). Each had a girth of about 4'.

On the south perimeter is an upright yew (centre). This is the more westerly of two and was not measured. It stands next to a triple stemmed female (right) with dipping branches and a girth of about 11' at 1'.

Also on the southern perimeter at the top of the churchyard is a young female probably no older than 40/50 years.



MARKSBURY St Peter ST6666362359 30th June 2014

Three yews grow here. The tree in the photo is female and grows north of the church. Girth was about 8' between 2' and 3' avoiding twiggy growth.

At the extreme east corner of churchyard in an area that is not looked after is a three stemmed yew whose girth appeared to be between 8'/10'.

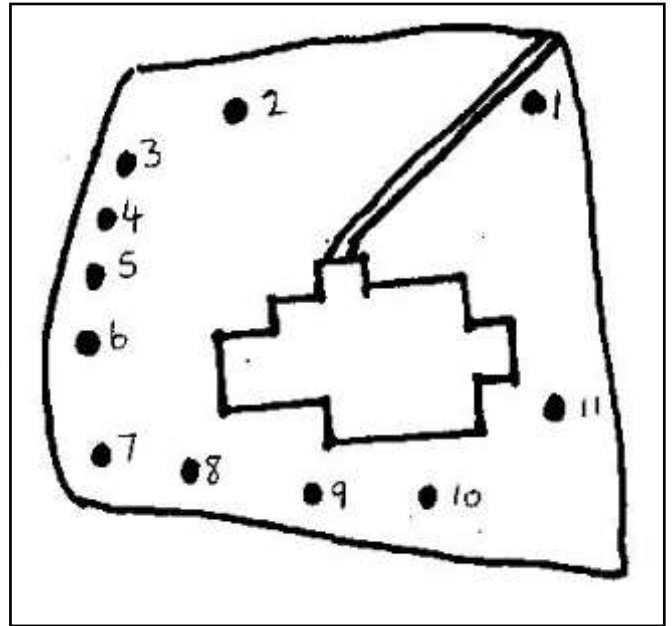
It was unclear whether the third yew was in the churchyard or an adjacent garden Girth was about 6'.



Eleven yews are recorded here. They were photographed in 2022. All are male with the exception of trees 6 and 7. The 1791 *History of Somerset* recorded that there was a 'fine old yew tree in a decaying state'. This no longer exists.

The churchyard is maintained by the local authority. Without regular attention it would be easy for the trees to be overwhelmed by ivy.

Tree 1 grows by an entrance to the churchyard from the main road. It leans slightly and had a girth of 8' 11" at 3' in 2014. In 2022 girth was 9' 2" at 3', measured over some thin ivy.



Tree 2 has a fluted trunk with no branches below 9'/10'. One section of dead wood at the base shows where hollowing will begin. Girth was 8' 10" at 3' in 2014 and 9' 3" at 3' in 2022.



Tree 3: A twin trunked yew. Girth at the height of trunk separation, about 2' 3" above the ground, was exactly 9' in 2014. In 2022 a girth of 9' 4½" at 1' was recorded.

Tree 4: Girth of about 7' at 3' over some ivy in 2014. In 2022 most of the ivy had been removed and girth was exactly 7' at 3'.



Tree 3



Tree 4

Tree 5: Obvious markings where this tree was pollarded long ago at a height of about 12'. Girth 7' 9" over some ivy recorded in 2014. In 2022 a thick ivy stem prevented measurement.



Tree 6: In 2014 the yew had been left to compete with elder and was losing the battle. Girth was about 6' 6". In 2022 the elder no longer surrounds the tree, but ivy has taken a hold and needs treating.



Tree 7 (right): In 2014 ivy covered the trunk and grew high into its branches. In 2022 girth was 8' 1" at 3' over a thin cover of ivy.



Tree 8 (left): In 2014 there was thick ivy around trunk and filling the canopy. This yew is of different appearance from the other ten, having had thick branches above 12' cut off. Girth was 8' 1" pulling the tape tight over thick ivy. By 2022 ivy has completely overwhelmed the tree.

Tree 9: In 2014 with a straight slightly leaning trunk. Burst of adventitious growth at about 10'. Girth exactly 8' at 3' in 2014.



Tree 10: A straight trunk. Girth was 9' 1" at 3' in 2014. In 2022 a girth of 9' 5" was recorded at 3' over thick ivy, including dead ivy stems decaying after previous treatment.



Tree 11: In 2014 measurement was not possible due to low twiggly growth, but it appeared to be 6'7'. By 2022 the tree has been inundated by ivy. It shows how quickly this can happen.



This church was opened in 1789 and it would seem likely that the four yews were planted at this time, making them about 225 years old.



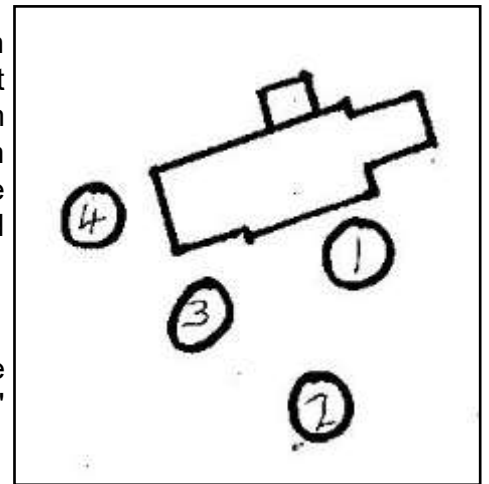
Tree 1, left, is female and the only one of the four with a cylindrical trunk. It is the most easterly of three yews that grow south of the church. It divides at a height of 5'6". Girth was 9' 9" at 1' over a thin covering of ivy.



Tree 2, right, is male and the furthest south. It began as a low tree with outstretching branches close to the ground. Many of these were removed and the tree now has three main areas of growth, creating a girth of 13' 3" close to the ground.



Tree 3, left, is male with 3 main stems which develop at heights of 3' and 5'. Looked at from the church side, the tree has a 4th stem that appears to have developed directly from its root. It then coalesces with one of the other three stems. Girth excluding this added stem was 13' 3".



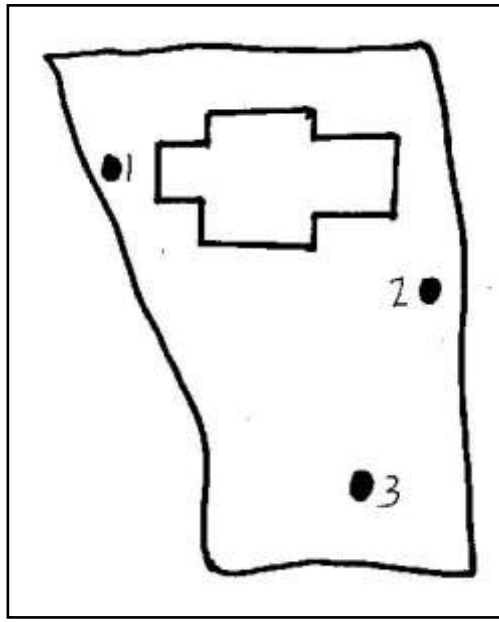
A 4th yew (no photo) grows WNW of the church. It is single trunked, with a girth of 8' 6" at 3'. It was inundated with ivy.

Four yews grow here. The most significant (left) is female, close to the south door of the church. Its girth was 11' 2" between 1' and 1' 6", though measurement was hampered by low growth.



On the north side are these three spreading yews, two females next to the road, the third male.





Tree 1 (left) is female and grows only 4 metres from the tower. Low twiggy branches meant that girth could only be estimated - as 7' 6". Some of its leaves were red or orange.

Tree 2 (right) is male and grows by the perimeter wall on the east side. On the day dead branches from a nearby trees were stored beneath it. It is hemmed in by other trees, and elder will make it unapproachable later in the year. Girth was 9' 4" close to the ground.

Tree 3 grows close to the road, SE of the church. It was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme, or to celebrate the millennium. It is male and multi-stemmed from the ground. My attention was drawn to this tree because I thought it was dying, but the yellowness was in fact copious pollen sacs. Closer inspection did however reveal many red leaves, similar to my own millennium specimen that was not receiving enough water.



MIDDLEZOY Holy Cross ST3747533100 8 June 2013



Two yews grow here. This male, SE of the church, has an estimated girth of 10'11". There was twiggy growth low down on east side of its trunk, but much of this had been trimmed.



The 2nd yew, growing NW of the church, is this healthy young male tree about 10' high. It is bushy with many branches from low down. It was unfortunate that the tree was competing with laurel, brambles and elder.



MIDSOMER NORTON ST6625954170 St John the Baptist 2nd Sept 2013



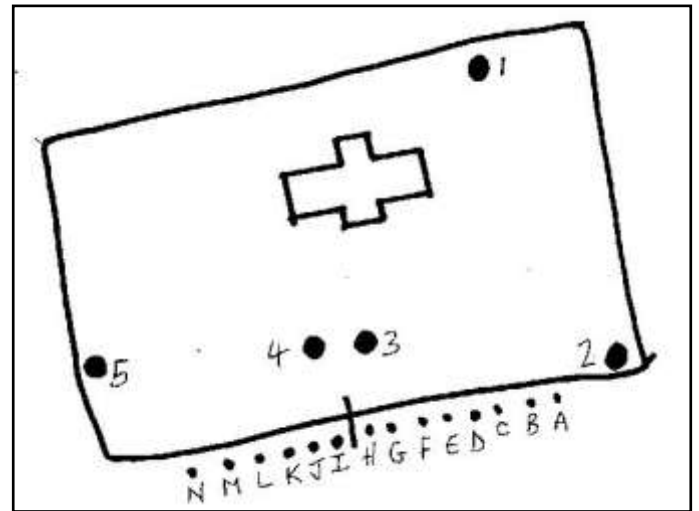
3 female yews grow here. The tree on the left is close to the north perimeter wall. By a height of 2' it has divided into 2 trunks. Girth was 8' 1" at 1' (above the higher ground).

The other two are on the south side between the church and main road. The tree closest to the church's south door is seen below, with its numerous branches reaching towards the ground all around the tree. Girth was 8' 3" at 2'.

Close to it but more westerly is a yew with a girth of 7' 2" at 1' over a thin covering of ivy. Its younger branches too have been allowed to stretch towards the ground (no photo).



There are no fewer than 19 yews here, of which 14 form a line along the south perimeter. There are also many Irish Yews, the most significant being a square of 10 trees around the Medlycott family vault.



Tree 1 grows NE of the church. A section of trunk has split from it recently. Girth was 9' 4" at 2'.

Tree 2 in the SE corner was puzzling. New leaf growth looked different, even the trunk had a smoothness that was not yew like. The numerous stems have created a large girthed tree, but this is only young.

Tree 3 is south of the church. It is twin trunked above 3'. Girth was about 8' 6".

Tree 4 is an ivy covered male. It develops several branches above a height of about 6'. Its girth was about 11' 6".

Tree 5, a female growing in the SW corner, is twin trunked from 2'. Girth was guessed as 10' around both stems.

The line of yews starting from the east end were recorded as follows:

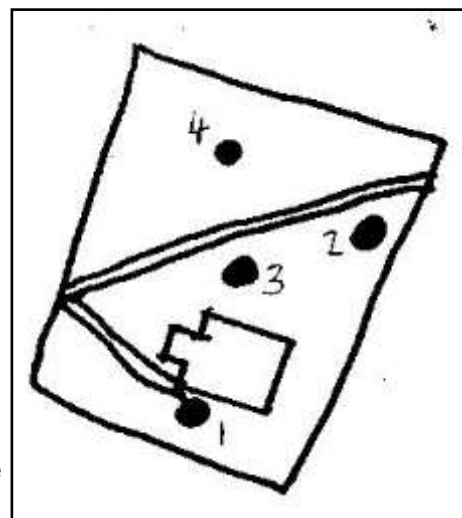
- A 4' 7" at 2' – over ivy
- B 3' 7" at 2' – over ivy
- C 3' 4" at 2' – over ivy
- D 1' 7" at 2' – over ivy
- E more than one stem from the ground
- F 3' 10" at 2'
- G 2' 11" at 2'
- H 3 stemmed from the ground
- I 2' 9½" at 2'
- J Several stems
- K 5' 10" at 2'
- L 3' 7" at 2'
- M Several stems and a girth of 7' 8" at 2'
- N 7' 10" at 2'



Sometimes called Milton Clevedon church, it is next to Manor Farm.

Close to the south door is a large bushy male (left and centre)

On the north side (right) is a yew that was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme, or to celebrate the millennium. Its tallest branches reach a height of about 8'. The tree had a trunk of about 6" before branch development.



Four yews grow here. Yew 1 (above) is south of the church, about 5m from the porch. It is male with a trunk height of about 6', above which are several sturdy branches. A gash in the tree reveals a section of dead sapwood. Girth was 9' 2½" at 1' and 9' 5" at 3'.

Yew 2 grows towards the gate at the NE corner of the churchyard. It is a fine male with branches spreading at right angles from its solid 5'6" trunk. While it was good to see the ivy had been cut, it was unfortunate to see the space beneath this tree being used as a place to get rid of the soil from newly dug graves. With the increasing soil height and unevenness of the ground it will become harder to remeasure at given heights, but on this occasion it was 10' 8" at 1' above the higher ground.



Yew 3's ground level has been raised by at least 1 1/2' with soil. The tree has many thick angled and upright branches. Girth of 11' 5" includes a thick cover of ivy leaves and stems.

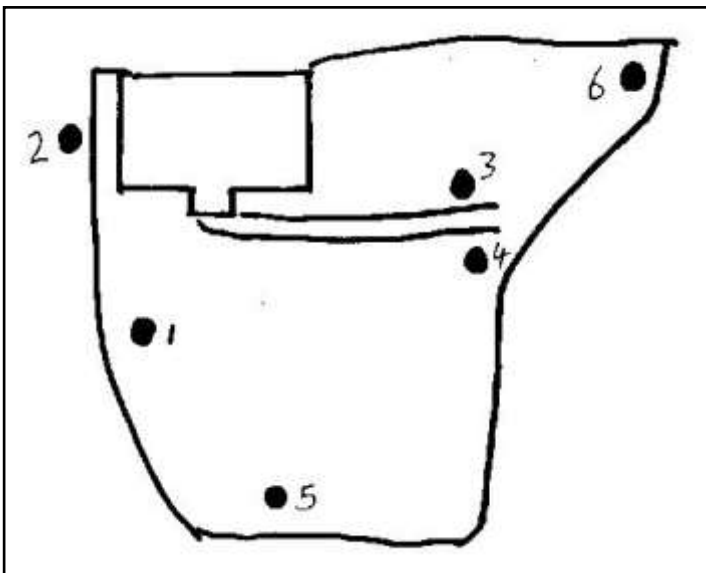


Yew 4, on the north side, is a recently planted bushy male with a height of about 12'.



MISTERTON St Leonard ST4524008126 3rd November 2016

Six yews are recorded here. Tree 1 grows due south of the church tower. It is close to the wall separating the churchyard from the garden of Court Place, and is a large clipped yew that mimics those in the garden on the other side of the wall. Its trunk appeared to be up to 3' in girth.



Tree 2 (below left) is in the adjoining garden but reaches across and touches the church.



Trees 3 and 4 grow at the entrance to the churchyard on the east side. Tree 3 (centre) is the most northerly of these and had a girth of 8' 11" at 2'. Tree 4 (right) had a girth of 9' 7" at 2'. Each of these are strikingly tall and straight.

Tree 5, south of the church, was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme, or to celebrate the millennium. It has a girth of 1' 8" on a stem only a few inches in height before branching.



Tree 6 (right) grows outside the east gate on a piece of land containing the church notice board. Girth was 8' 3" at about 2' over very thick ivy. The land has become the place to discard bags of dog excrement.



MONKSILVER All Saints ST0727837430 26th October 2016

According to Wikipedia this yew tree is believed to date from 1770. Its girth suggest that this could be right. The male yew grows at the top of a steep grassy slope south of a church whose alignment is ENE/WSW. It was clad in ivy which also filled some of its branches. Some of these dip close to the ground both on the upper and lower side of the tree. This must be a very damp spot and there was much moss and lichen on the branches. Foliage looked generally thin. Girth was 10' 7" at 3" above the higher ground. The tree has a trunk 7/8' high, above which are many thick and spreading branches. It appears in a drawing dated 1845 found in the church magazine. At that time the tree would have been 75 years old.



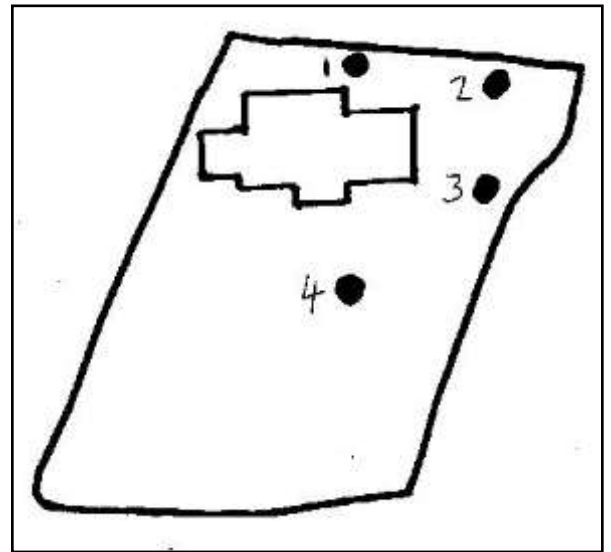
Three yews grow here. WSW of the church is a young male with a girth of about 3' 6" and much twiggy growth. It was unassuming and uninspiring (no photos).

A nondescript young yew grows far too close to Dale House. A little further from Dale House is this yew, either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme or to celebrate the millennium. It was faring well. Apart from one low branch it is single stemmed to a height of about 2', when it divides into 3 main branches. Girth, measured just above the lower branch, was 11".



Four yews grow here.

Yew 1 (left) is male, north of the church and close to the road. Its lower trunk was bushy with twiggy growth and it was ivy clad. Girth was in the 5'/6' range.



Yew 2 (left) has the upright sweep and leaves of an Irish Yew but with a trunk that looked like common yew. On a cut branch with a girth of 1' 5" I counted 50+ rings.

On the right is an Irish yew of more usual appearance. This one grows on the south side.



Yew 3 (left) grows east of the church. It is male and propping up a tombstone. Girth appeared to be in the range 5'/6'.

Yew 4 (right) grows south of the church. It is branchy from the base and spreading. It shared its space with a well developed variegated box like shrub.





Two yews grow here. Left is a male SW of the church, with a girth of exactly 10' at 1' above the higher ground. It has a fluted trunk and many branches from a height of 7'8'.

Right is a young bushy female SSW of the church. It had only a few arils, but was a healthy looking tree.



Two yews, male and female grow either side of the path leading to the north door of the church. The female (left) is the most westerly of the pair. It has a cylindrical trunk with a thin covering of ivy. Main branching started at a height of about 10'. Girth was 8' 7" at 2' and 8' 9" at 1'.

The male (centre and right) is much bulkier with large epicormic bulging from 3' and upwards in some parts of the tree and 5' and upwards in others. Above this bulging it spreads outwards and is of massive appearance. The main branching begins at 10'12' and some of these are very thick, spreading both upwards and outwards. Girth was 11' 9" at 2' and 11' 6" at 1'. Also noted was the grave beneath this tree – dated 1766. Were the trees planted for or by this family?

Mention must be made of this pair of topiarised yews at the entrance to the National Trust's Priests House on the opposite side of the road.

