

One sturdy male yew grows at the far north end of the churchyard. It was either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme or to celebrate the millennium.

It branches from about 1' upwards and its leading branches are at least 10' tall. Measured beneath its first branch girth was 13 ½".



A row of 9 clipped yews grow on the west side the church. There is also a slightly larger clipped yew in the grounds, and a yew hedge on the east side, north of the church.

Girth of the clipped yews, showing a remarkable variety of features, was between 2' and 3' 6".



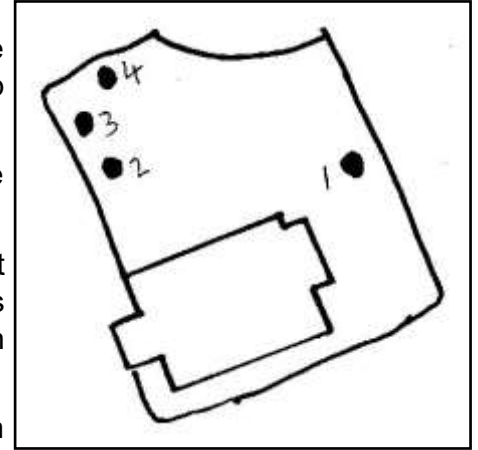
The churchyard is adjacent to the county cricket ground. It was a surprise to find such a large green space hidden behind a church in such a built up area.

Yew 1 is female, east of the church and close to the road. It is a single common or European yew growing among several Irish yews.

Yew 2 grows north of the tower and close to some new church buildings. It is male, single trunked with some low twiggy growth. At the ground was the mark of a sawn off branch. Girth was 8' 10" behind the twiggy growth at a height of between 2' and 3'.

Yew 3 is female with a girth of 9' 10" between 6" and 1'. Many thin branches develop from low on the trunk.

Yew 4 is female, many branched from low down. Girth was 9' 10" close to the ground and above the bulgy root.



Two yews grow here, a male with a girth of about 2' 6" on the north side next to a large garden wall (left).

A female yew SE, with a girth of 8' 3" close to the ground (right).



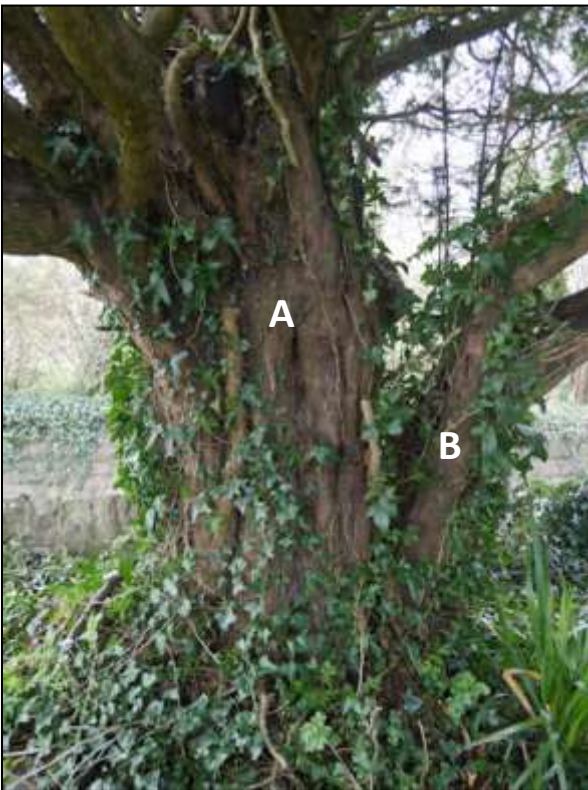
Two female yews grow SE of the church. The tree closest to the road (left and centre) appears to have once been twin trunked, with one of the trunks lost. It might have formerly been about 10' in girth but no attempt was made to measure. The smaller yew (no photo) had an estimated girth of 4'5'.



On the north side is a fine array of clipped common and Irish yews.

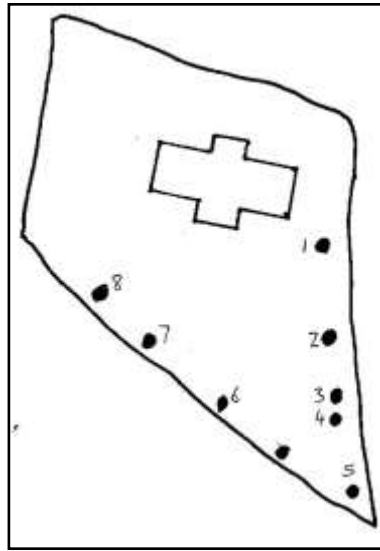
The church is dated 1826. Two yews grow NW of the church close to the road.

The tree on the left is female, consisting of a main trunk (A) and a 2nd stem (B) from the same root close to it. As both sections grow they may eventually coalesce. Girth was 7' 6" at 2' over some ivy around the main trunk. Girth recorded around both A and B was 9' 2" close to the ground. The tree on the right is male and looked older than an 1826 planting. Much ivy covered its straight trunk, which is hollowing on the side facing the church. Girth over ivy was 11' 6" between 1' and 2'.



SE of the church is this large lichen covered bushy female yew, multi-stemmed from the ground.





Many yews grow in this unusual churchyard.

Yew 1 is male, SE and closest to the church. It had much low twiggy growth and many branches from 5'6' and upwards. Girth estimated as 8'9'.

Next to it a rambling Irish yew.

Yew 2 is a young female that appeared too well developed to be a millennium planting.

Yews 3 and 4 grow side by side out of the top of a steep drop to the road below. Estimated girths were between 5' and 6'.

Yew 5 grows in the triangular corner SE of the church. It is female with a girth of 3'4'. Yew 6 is female and full of ivy. There is a vast Irish yew before tree 7, a dead yew completely covered in ivy.



Yew 8 is the only tree here that could be measured. It is female with a girth of 8' 7" at 2' 6". Ivy had been cut from this and burn marks at the base suggest that attempts were made to burn it off.

A 9th yew, not on the plan and the only yew on the north side, is female and growing ridiculously close to a newly built house. No doubt it will eventually have to be cut down because of this. How do planners get away with it? Girth was about 4'.





This male yew grows on the south side. A fluted central stem and many thick branches develop at about 6'. Some low growth is developing on root material at the base of the tree.

Girth was 11' 1" at 2', taping behind the ivy. It was also measured in February 2007 when a girth of 10' 9" at 2' was recorded. This is an increase of 4" in 8½ years.



A yew at the west end was packed full of arils. Guarded by brambles, it was not possible to measure, but it looked in the region of 9'/10' in girth. Branching started at a height of about 10', but the tree attains no great height.

There was also a young female in a mixed hedge on the north perimeter. This might have been planted or could have been self - seeded.

A large and impressive male yew grows north of the church at the east end. Part of its east face was soft to the touch and full of worm holes and decay - resulting from the removal of branches. This will eventually lead to a horse shoe shaped hollow tree. There are a large number of upright branches above a height where the yew appears to have been truncated (say 18'/20') at some time in the past. The upper part of the tree looked a bit sparse – not yet thickening with new growth.

Girth was 11' 10½" keeping tape 1' above the sloping ground and 11' 6½" at 3'.



Also growing here are these three younger yews. Southwest is a tree small enough to be a millennium yew (M), the others, found S and in the SE corner were larger and older.



One well developed bushy male grows ESE of the church. Spreading out from just above the ground it has already become about 15' high.



Three yews grow on the east perimeter of this remote churchyard.

Tree 1 (left) is the most southerly of the three. It is female and leans as if pushed by the prevailing westerlies. It consists of three main growth areas, and a girth of about 14' was recorded around these. Some ivy was growing in the tree.

Tree 2 (centre) is male and more upright than tree 1. It consists of three main stems creating an elongated trunk shape. Girth around all of these was about 15'.

Tree 3 (right) is female and its multi trunked appearance made it look as though it started life as an Irish yew which has reverted. The tree is at the NE corner of the churchyard and was behind some fencing, so it shares the space with the churchyard and other waste.



A multi-stemmed male yew grows north of the church. It was obviously once part of the churchyard, but the boundary has been moved and the tree is no longer in the churchyard.



On the south side, rather hemmed in by recent house building, is the fine straight trunked female yew seen below. It bulges from branch removal at a height of about 6'. Girth was 11' 8½" at 2'.



UPHILL St Nicholas ST3193658843 8th September 2013

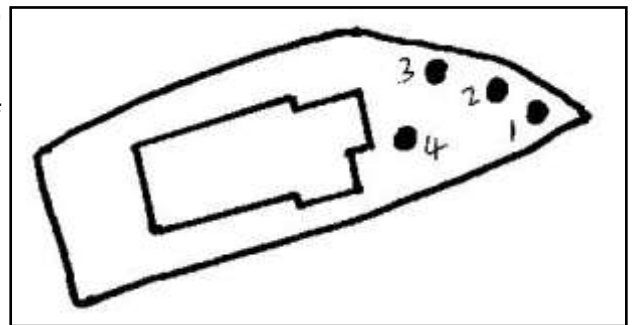
4 yews grow at the east end, one close to the church, the remaining three in a line on the curved perimeter.

Tree 1, furthest from the church is female with a girth of 6' 8" over thin ivy.

Tree 2, a gall laden male, twin trunked above a height of about 2'. Not taped but probably slightly smaller than tree 1.

Tree 3, male with a girth of 8' 10" at 2'.

Tree 4, male, bulgy at the base, growing closest to the church. Girth was 7' 5" at 2'.



UPPER SWAINSWICK St Mary ST7565368409 3rd March 2016

One small yew, either planted in the early 1990s as part of the Go for God programme, or to celebrate the millennium. It has a clear stem girthing 5½". It grows SE of the church on raised ground in part of a newly created Conservation Area.



Here is a new church built in 1870, but was it previously a religious site?

Two female yews grow at the west end. The more southerly of the two and closest to the church (right) has had many lower branches removed. This has resulted in the tree swelling more than normal resulting in a girth of 10' 1" close to the ground.

The second tree (below) appears to have spread considerably and merits closer study. Some stems are upright, others lie on the ground. From these lying sections rise a number of smaller trees. Many of these grow from a hidden piece of root and are no more than a foot in height because of browsing. These sections, all female, spread over a considerable area.



A male yew, so ivy clad that it was hanging from the branches. It grows south of the church and about 5m from a house. Its main branching is between 5' and 8'. Girth was about 10' at 1', but ivy might account for up to 1' of this. An electricity cable ran through the tree.



A 2nd yew (below) grows on the south side by a 5'/6' high compost pile. It is a bushy female.



When I entered this churchyard with its many graves there was no impression that the church had been converted and the house lived in, but Pevsner says it was redundant as long ago as 1983.

Since it was only built in 1846 the large rambling many stemmed yew on the north side will presumably date from that time.



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