

DEVON - churchyard sites with younger yews

BROADCLYST St John the Baptist SX98769728 12/4/2009 Barry Saich

Three trees, one male on S side of church, two more (male and female) either side of NW entrance. The tree on the south side has recently been topped, probably due to damage from weather conditions. There is also evidence of much earlier attempts to prevent spreading of upper branches, by placing a chain around the trunk at about 1.5 metres.



All three were measured at the ground. The tree on the south side (above) girthed 8' 6", the two either side of the NW entrance (below) girthed 9' 4" and 10' 8".



BUCKERELL St Mary and St Giles ST123004 29/5/2000 Tim Hills

The rector of Buckerell informed Vaughan Cornish, for his book *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* (1946), of 'a yew of considerable age'. I recorded 5 yews here, of which the largest were (1) male SE of the church measuring 11' 2" at 3' and (2) female SW measuring 10' 2" at 3'.

BURLESCOMBE St. Mary ST07591663 22/9/2008 Barry Saich



CHRISTOW St.James SX 836851 11/5/2009 Barry Saich

Tree 1: Well fluted trunk to 3' then spreads to 9 trunks. Signs of old and new surgery. Ground measure of 11' 4½". Female.

Tree 2: Nicely proportioned and fluted male tree. Girth 10' 7½" at the ground.

Tree 3: Small but bushy tree, trunk has already split in two at ground level, each about 1' diameter at the ground. Girth 12' 6".

Tree 4: Female, splits into 4 major trunks with several large lateral branches from 6' high. Girth 12' 6" at the ground.

Tree 5: Male, splits into 7 trunks at 6' but 2 have been removed. Girth 10' 8½" at the ground.

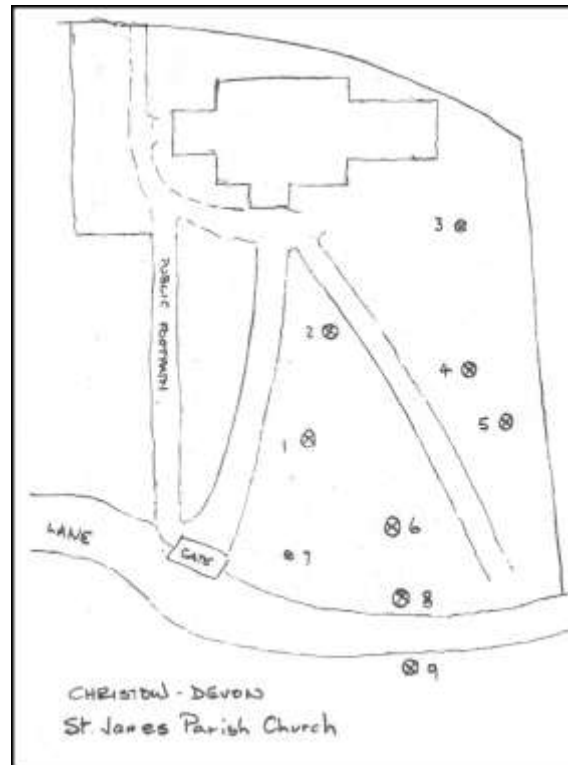
Tree 6: Fluted main trunk to 8' then splits into 3, one of which has been removed, together with several largish lateral branches, the lowest of which would have been about 6'. Girth 8' 9". Female.

Tree 7: no information

Tree 8: Evidence of bole cut down at ground level. Probably 10' girth when cut down, due to close proximity of retaining wall adjacent to lane.

Tree 9: Female tree of similar size and age as the larger trees in churchyard is found in the grounds of the cottage opposite. Thick ivy growth extended into its lower crown and there were extensive sideshoots to its trunk.

The earliest mention of yews here is found in Bell's *Devon* 1929.



CLANNABOROUGH St Petrock SS747026 Todd Gray

A fine looking tree on the south side. It has not been measured.



COLYTON St Andrew SY24589010 1946 Rev WG Wilson

Rev WG Wilson, in reply to Vaughan Cornish (1946) noted "Some 30 yews about 12' high, planted since 1818."

CULMSTOCK All Saints ST10051381 2008 Barry Saich

Three yew trees. Larger male tree on N side of church, smaller female tree in SW corner to left of entrance. A much smaller Yew growing from the top of the Church Tower.

DODBROOKE, Kingsbridge St Thomas a Becket SX73924451 c1990 Percy Morgan

Notes suggest 5 yews, the largest being 9 feet at 3', SE of the church.

EGGBUCKLAND St Edward SX4979557793 27/02/2025 Matt Hicks

Yew with girth of 9' at 3' and 8' 5" at 5'.



FAIRMILE St Phillip and St James SY087975 25/2/2007 Tim Hills



Yew topiary in the shape of a bell.

FENITON St Andrew SY1090799397 29/5/2000 Tim Hills

In *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* Cornish (1946) was informed by Rev A.G.Chapell of 'three old yews'.

The yew NW of the church, according to a tradition still current in the parish, was planted in A.D. 1349 over the spot where parishioners were buried in a common grave during the Black Death.

Two of the 3 yews were recorded as:

(1) NW – male - 8' 8" at 5'

(2) NNE – male - 9' 1" at 3'.

HIGHWEEK All Saints SX85157207 1933 Notes and Queries

Notes and queries of May 20th 1933 (p351) has the following: "The church stands on an eminence. Here is a fine yew tree." It is not known whether this tree lives on.

HUNTSHAM All Saints ST00132045 22/9/2008 Barry Saich



A very well kept small country church with some interesting cast iron gravestones. There are several other yews in the village especially around the entrance to Hoyte Hall.

Two male yews in the churchyard as follows:

1: SE of church. Its trunk splits into 4 at about 1m. Girth was 383.5 cm (12' 7") at the ground and 378 cm at 1m. Height was 18.64 m.

2: SW of church. Girth 370.84 (12' 2") at the ground / 373.38 at 1m. Height was 17.399m.

LITTLEHEMPSTON St John the Baptist SX81226262 Chris Knapman

A yew growing SW of the church is probably notable, but is yet to be visited to measure and assess.

NEWTON FERRERS Holy Cross SX550482 6/6/2006 Tim Hills

In *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality*, Cornish (1946) was informed by Miss R.C.Brooking of 'some very old yews'. There was nothing here of great note.

SALCOMBE REGIS St Peter SY148888 17/10/2009 Tim Hills

A sketch in Cornish's *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality* (1946) shows this yew with the following description: 'Salcombe Regis, near Sidmouth in south-east Devon, where my family have long been landowners, provides a suitable example of the relation of the churchyard Yew to the situation and people of an ancient and secluded parish.....West of the church, on the way from the lych gate which is the sole entrance to the churchyard, stands the sacred Yew, a well-grown tree of which the age was reckoned by the historian of the parish to be about two hundred and fifty years.*

*John Y.Anderson Morshead. One copy of his MS. History is in the keeping of the Vicar of Salcombe Regis; another is in the Exeter Public Library. A summary is contained in a paper on " The History of Salcombe Regis" in *Trans. Devon Association, 1898.*"

The yew is female and grows WNW of the church tower. Girth was 9' 4" at 2' and exactly 10' at 3'. Above this height it bulges considerably and this has led to some branch removal.



TALATON St James the Great SY06759972

In 1946 a yew with a girth of 9' was recorded in Cornish's *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality*

TEIGNGRACE St Peter and St Paul SX850739 15/5/2004 Tim Hills

The female yew grows west of the church, outside the churchyard and in the centre of a large grassy 'roundabout'. Girth 9' 1" at 3'.

WITHYCOMBE RALEIGH St John 29/05/2000

This location has often been quoted as the site of an ancient yew. The tree in question grows in the churchyard of St John in the Wilderness at Withycombe Bystock, which is about a mile north east of Withycombe Raleigh.

YARCOMBE St John the Baptist ST24560819 23/5/2021 Brynley Andrews

A yew with estimated girths of 250cm at 0.5m and 310cm at the ground. Dense branches prevented access. The stem appeared to have unusually wide fluting.



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