1940: Mee described in *The King's England* that 'a sentinal yew in the churchyard is hollow and broken with age; it seemed to us the only weary thing in Pilton'.

Here is the sentinel yew in 1997. While Mee's description 'broken with age' suggests a tree in its final years, old yews are simply moving into a new stage of development. This tree will eventually perhaps become two or more fragment trees. Time will tell.

For the moment several chains have been placed around its branches at a height of about 15' to prevent it from leaning outwards any further. Inside the hollow could be seen twisted roots and two internal stems which grow close to the bole, merging with it a few feet above the ground. There are 3 main areas of growth, including a fluted, straight and tall branch rising at the back of the tree close to the internal stems.

Girth:

1997: 18' 6" around the base and 17' 6" at 2' - Tim Hills

2012: 17' 3" at 2' and therefore not including a small piece of fragment-ed stump - Peter Norton

2016: 17' 9½" at 2' and 18' 6" at the ground. Disturbance of the soil at the base suggests this is an unreliable place to take comparative measurements over time.

The yew is seen here in 2016

Pilton's younger yews were also documented in 2016. To the north of the ancient tree are two younger yews either side of a mature cypress.

The yew closest to the road (left) has a single stem that divides at 6'/8' into several uprights. Girth was 6' 4" at 2'.

The yew furthest from the road (right) is a single stemmed female with no branches below a height of about 8'. Girth was 5' 9½" at 2'.

A fourth yew grows SW of the church close to a shed. It is female with a girth of about 7' and is most notable for the upright twigs growing from its horizontal branches - a feature more normally seen on woodland yews.

This yew has germinated in a wall north of the church tower. It will be interesting to see how long it lasts.