

The churchyard is bounded by a fast flowing stream and a pub wall. Long ago this was an important overnight resting and watering stop used by cattle drovers heading for Llandovery and the English markets. While the present church building is thought to be early 14th century, the presence of an ancient yew and the knowledge that there were once two more yews of similar size, suggests that this site was used as a place of worship centuries earlier.

In the mid 19th century, Alcwyn Evans remarked on the yews at Cilycwm. He said that 'seven Yew trees of very ancient appearance grow in the churchyard, 3 on the north and 4 on the south, one of which measures 21ft in circumference'.

In 2017 there are 3 on the north side, as well as the stump of a tree that would probably once have girthed more than 24ft. On the south side are two yews and another large girthed stump.

Of the 5 yews that grow in the churchyard, the ancient yew SE is a remarkable looking tree. Seen here in 2017, the male yew develops into a very straight fluted branch rising in the centre of the tree. Lateral branching does not begin until a height of about 12', and the main stem divides above 18'.

The reason for such a large section of dead wood is unclear. It is possible that this section of the bole was dead and the branches removed for safety. It is also possible that so much living material was removed that this part of the tree was unable to recover. The yew, with a girth of 24' 1" at the ground in 1998, nonetheless had a fine, healthy crown.



Also on the south side is all that is left of a stump, one of the yews written about in the mid 19th century.



The veteran yew, with a girth of approximately 22ft recorded in 2017, grows out over the stream at the east end of the churchyard.



This stump, on the north side, would probably have had a girth of 24' and must be the yew Evans gave a girth of 21' to in the mid 19th century.





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