

The church is 13th century. At the time of my visit in late March 1999 its porch was decorated with yew for Palm Sunday.

In 1850 *Sharpe's London Journal* reported that 'the churchyard of Upper Hardres, Kent, contains two very ancient yews; one of them, however, was nearly destroyed by the memorable November gale some years since; its companion measures twenty-one feet in girth, three feet above the soil'.

In 1936 Mee's *The King's England* noted 'A fine yew perhaps 500 years old, and another which is surely the most twisted tree for miles'.

1999: Both yews are female and grow on the north side of the church. The largest, left, is hollow with a distinctive red bark, and was set in a circle of elder and nettles. As well as a major section at (A) which had snapped off, many major branches had also been sawn off. Girth was 21' 8" at 3'.



Only half of the smaller tree (right) remains, measuring 15' at 1'.

One of the yews is seen here in a b&w photo of an 1807 Petrie water-colour.

