

Translating Monumental Inscriptions

Monumental inscriptions are usually written in a plain style and follow a typical pattern. Therefore translating Latin or Welsh inscriptions into English can be fairly straightforward. First some Latin phrases followed by some Welsh ones.

Latin phrase	Latin	English
	aetatis	of the age
	aetatis suae	of his (or her) age
	anno aetatis suae (AAS)	in the year of his (or her) age
	beatae memoriae	of blessed memory
	hic jacet	here lies
	hodie mihi, cras tibi	today to me, tomorrow to you
	IHSOUS (Latin) or ΙΗΣΟΥΣ (Greek)	JESUS
	Iesus Hominum Salvator (IHS)	Jesus the Saviour of mankind
	in memoriam	to the memory of
	obiit	he or she died
	requiescat in pace	may he or she rest in peace
	requiescant in pace	may they rest in peace
	RIP	rest in peace (as above)
	sculpsit	he (or she) carved (or cut) it
	siste viator	stop traveller
	sit tibi terra levis	may the earth be light upon you
	summum nec metuas diem nec optes	neither fear nor wish for your last day
	vixit	he or she has lived
	vixit annos	he or she has lived years

Opening phrase

followed by the **name** of
the deceased and then by
a **relationship** to others

Cymraeg

Er cof am
Er cof annwyl am
Er serchus gof am
Er coffadwriaeth am
Cof Faen / Cofen / Cofeb

Baban
Brawd / Brawd yng nghyfraith
Brodyr
Cefnder / Cyfnither
Cymydog
Chwaer / Chwaer yng nghyfraith
Chwiorydd
Ewythr
Gwr
Gwraig
Hen-
Mab / Meibion
Mam
Mamgu / Nain
Merch / Merched
Modryb
Nai / Nith
Plentyn / Plant
Priod
Rhieni
Tad
Tadcu / Taid
Wyr / Wyrion
Wyres

English

In memory of
In beloved memory of
In loving memory of
In remembrance of
The Memorial Stone of

Baby
Brother / Brother in law
Brothers
Cousin (male / female)
Neighbour
Sister / Sister in law
Sisters
Uncle
Husband
Wife
Great-
Son / Sons
Mother
Grandmother
Daughter / Daughters
Aunt
Nephew / Niece
Child / Children
Spouse
Parents
Father
Grandfather
Grandson / Grandsons
Granddaughter

Details of Life	Ganed/Ganwyd Bu farw Claddwyd yn .. mlwydd oed	was born died buried aged .. years
Days of the Week	Dydd Sul Dydd Llun Dydd Mawrth Dydd Mercher Dydd Iau Dydd Gwener Dydd Sadwrn	Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
Dates (ordinal)	1af - cyntaf 2il - ail 3ydd - trydydd 4ydd - pedwerydd 5ed - pumed 6ed - chweched 7fed - seithfed 8fed - wythfed 9fed - nawfed 10fed - degfed	1st - first 2nd - second 3rd - third 4th - fourth 5th - fifth 6th - sixth 7th - seventh 8th - eighth 9th - ninth 10th - tenth
Months of the year	Ionawr (Ion.) Chwefror (Chwe.) Mawrth (Maw.) Ebrill (Ebr.) Mai Mehefin (Meh.) Gorffennaf (Gor.) Awst Medi Hydref (Hyd.) Tachwedd (Tach.) Rhagfyr (Rhag.)	January (Jan.) February (Feb.) March (Mar.) April (Apr.) May June (Jun.) July August (Aug.) September (Sep.) October (Oct.) November (Nov.) December (Dec.)

Sometimes **occupations**
are shown

Athro / Athrawes
Bardd
Bugail
Cariwr
Cerddor
Crydd
Cyfreithiwr
Chwarelwr
Dilledydd
Ffermwr
Garddwr
Glowr
Masnachydd
Melinydd
Mwynwr
Saer Coed
Saer Maen
Tafarnwr
Teilwr
Telynor
Ysgolfeistr
Ysgrifennydd

Teacher (male / female)
Poet / Bard
Shepherd
Carrier
Musician
Shoemaker / Cobbler
Solicitor / Lawyer
Quarryman
Draper
Farmer
Gardener
Collier
Merchant
Miller
Miner
Carpenter
Stone Mason
Publican
Tailor
Harpist
Schoolmaster
Secretary

or **position** within
a church or chapel

Arweinydd y gân / Codwr canu
Blaenor / Diacon
Emynydd
Gweinidog
Organydd
Parchedig (Parch.)
Pregethwr
Trysorydd
Ysgrifennydd

Precentor, one who leads the singing
Elder / Deacon
Hymn Writer
Minister
Organist
Reverend (Rev.)
Preacher
Treasurer
Secretary

Monumental inscriptions may end with a quotation.

Ac yn eu marwolaeth, ni wahanwyd hwy
Canys byw i mi yw Crist a marw sydd elw
Cofia nawr dy Greawdwr yn nyddiau dy ieuencid
Coffadwriaeth y cyfiawn sydd fendigedig
Da, was da a ffyddlon
Ei diwedd oedd heddwch
Gadewch i blant bychain ddyfod ataf fi
Gorffwys mewn hedd
Gwylwch gan hynny am na wyddoch pa awr y daw eich
Arglwydd
Gwyn eu byd y meirw, y rhai sydd yn marw yn yr Arglwydd
Gwyn eu byd y tangnefeddwyr, canys hwy a elwir yn blant i
Dduw
Hedd, Perffaith Hedd
Mi a ymdrechais ymdrech deg, mi a orphenais fy ngyrfa, mi a
gedwais y ffydd.
Yng nghanol ein bywyd, yr ydym mewn angau
Yr hyn a allodd hon, hi a'i gwnaeth

And in their death, they were not divided [2 Samuel 1:23]
For me, to live is Christ and dying is gain [Philippians 1:21]
Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth [Eccl. 12:1]
The memory of the just is blessed [Proverbs 10:7]
Well done, thou good and faithful servant [Matthew 25:21]
Her end was peace
Let the little children come to me [Marc 10:14]
Rest in peace
Watch therefore for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come
[Matthew 24:42]
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord [Rev. 14:13]
Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of
God [Matthew 5:9]
Peace, Perfect Peace
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept
the faith [Timothy 4:7]
In the midst of life we are in death [Book of Common Prayer]
She hath done what she could [Mark 14:8]

Here is an example from Ffynnon Baptist Chapel at Llanddewi Velfrey.



Er Cof am PHEBE, merch
Evan a Mary Morgan
Ty'r Eglwys, Castellldwyran
hunodd Tach. 18 1859
yn 3 blwydd oed
Hefyd ANN eu merch
Ebrill 20 1859
yn 14 wythnos

Berthnasau hoff, na wylwch ddim,
Wrth edrych ar ein bedd,
'R y'm ni yn canu yn ddiboen,
Ynghanol gwlad yr hedd.

In memory of PHEBE, daughter of
Evan and Mary Morgan
Ty'r Eglwys, Castellldwyran
died Nov. 18 1859
aged 3 years
Also ANN their daughter
April 20 1859
aged 14 weeks

Dear relatives, do not weep,
When looking at our tomb,
We are singing without pain,
In the midst of the land of peace.