

## 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.

<b>Latin phrase</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>English</b>
	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
	<b>IHSOUS</b> (Latin) or <b>ΙΗΣΟΥΣ</b> (Greek)	<b>JESUS</b>
	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  
Mehedin (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.