

Tablet from the Churchyard Wall.

When the churchyard wall was being dismantled on 18th April 2006 a piece of stone used in the wall was discovered to have writing on it. The following is a transcript of the words deciphered. The letters in italics are supposition based on the legible context.

" *WHO*'ER THOU ART
READER KNOW THAT *HERE LIES*
YOUTH AND VIRTUE
IT CLAIMS A FALLING TEAR
SMOTHERS FOND DELIGHTS
AND SMOTHERS PRIDE
! WERE LOST ?
IN THIS DEAR INFANT
HELD TENDER FRIENDSHIP
ENT(S?) ARDENT PRAYER
ENGAGING WILLING (?)
..TIL THE OLD STARS
THIS DEAR CHILD HAP/D
OF LOVE
STILL DETAINED HERE
IN THE JOYS ABOVE"

The people known to have worked on this at various times are Brian Plummer, Anne Thomas, Pat Swinburne, Ian Smart, Jo Plummer and Anthony Houghton-Brown.

At the bottom of the verse there is what looks like a drawing of a crib.

The stone itself is ragged at the edges and the lettering is shallow.

There is no date and no name.

We have not found a source for the writing to date nor do we know where the actual stone came from.

Anne M. Thomas 29th May 2006