

## Tablet from the Churchyard Wall.

When the churchyard wall was being dismantled on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006