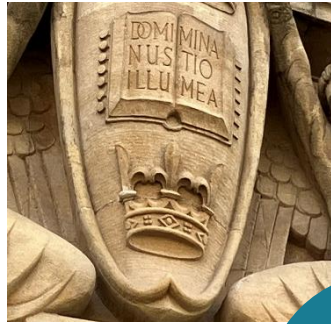


OXFORD INSCRIPTIONS 1

An all-age worksheet © Zenas Heritage Tours

- These 10 ten inscriptions are all around Oxford, some indoors and some outdoors.
- Can you locate them all?
- They are all carvings in stone, wood or metal.



1. DOMINUS ILLUMINATIO MEA

This is the motto of the University of Oxford – The Lord is my Light

Where is this inscription?

How does Psalm 27 continue?

.....



2. VIVI DOMINUM

“I have seen the Lord”

Why are there 11 men crowding 1 woman, and what is her name?

Guess the name of the College where this carving is in the Dining Hall. (Clue – think of the woman’s name)

3. SI BONUS ES INTRES: SI NEQUAM NE QUAQUAM



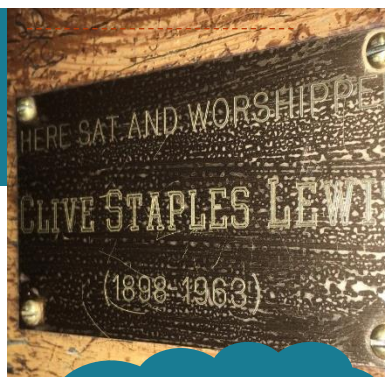
“If you are good, you’re welcome; if you’re not, you’re not.”

This carving is at one of the entrances to the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Which one?

Say the Latin aloud - which part sounds funny?

4. HERE SAT AND WORSHIPPED CLIVE STAPLES LEWIS

This inscription is in the pew in Holy Trinity church, Headington Quarry in Oxford where this man went to church.



How is Clive better known?

.....

Can you name any of the books he wrote?

This is a quote from Psalm 121. Which word means ‘going out’ which we still use today?

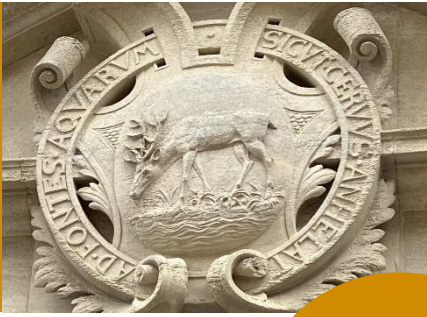
5. DOMINUS CUSTODIAT INTROITUM TUUM ET EXITUM TUUM



“The Lord watch over your coming in and your going out.”

This inscription greets people as they leave St Mary’s the University Church. However, they don’t read it because they are generally looking up at a certain beautiful round building in front of them. What is the name of the building?

6. AD
FONTES
AQUARUM
SICUT
CERVUS
ANHELAT



“As the deer pants for streams of water ...”

This is the beginning of Psalm 42.

Which college opposite the Bodleian Library has this inscription over the door? (Clue: one whose symbol is the deer).

In Psalm 42 the Psalmist has a conversation with someone unusual – who?

Alfred was known as ‘Alfred the Great’. Why?

Alfred was buried in Winchester, but in which Oxfordshire town was he born?

7. AELFRED MEC
HEHT GEWYRCAN

“Alfred made me.”

This is the Alfred Jewel in the Ashmolean Museum. The language is Anglo-Saxon, which developed into English.

It is one of the most valuable artefacts not just in the Ashmolean, but in the whole of England.



8. MY SWORD
I GIVE TO HIM
THAT SHALL
SUCCEED ME
IN MY
PILGRIMAGE

These are the words of Mr Valiant-for-Truth in the book Pilgrim’s Progress. He was about to cross the river (symbolising dying) having completed his life’s journey and was giving away his possessions.

Who wrote Pilgrim’s Progress?

This quote is used at the entrance to a War memorial garden outside which Oxford College?

9. ECCE EXIIT SEMINANS AD SEMINANDUM

“And behold a sower went out to sow.”

These are the opening lines of which famous Parable?



What is the name for using coloured stones to make a picture, instead of painting?

People kneeling to receive communion in Worcester College chapel would see these words. In the parable, who is the sower, who is the soil and what does the seed represent?



10. BEATI PACIFICI

“Blessed are the peacemakers”

The king sitting in the middle is James I of England (already James VI of Scotland).

Where is this?

Why did England and Scotland need a peacemaker during his reign? (Hint: the previous 3 English monarchs had been the children of Henry VIII.)

He helped produce a new version of the Bible. How is this Bible known?

BONUS!

11. ORE STABIT FORTIS ARARE
PLACET ORE STAT



These look like proper Latin words but it is actually an English sentence. The letters are all in the correct order but the gaps are in the wrong places. Can you solve the riddle?