

The Latin inscription on the tablet commemorating the Asplins is in rather elementary, almost ‘dog’ Latin, making the precise meaning of some words difficult to determine; but basically it says that Mary (née Myster) came from William’s other incumbency of Hornton “in the fields of Oxfordshire” and that she was a “gracious, dearest true wife, who all her life performed her services in a diligent manner”. The text continued with the charmingly poetic, “She gently returned to God in 1736.” Mary was fifty when she died.

The Latin is so ambiguous that William is recorded as either an alchemist, or an apothecary (or he may have been something of a herbalist); he is remembered as a teacher and a cultivator of minds, also “a true worshipper of peace who envied no man”. The inscription finishes at the bottom of the tablet with the first line from verse 4 of Psalm 40: “Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust.”

In the book the help is acknowledged of Helen Oates of East House, Adderbury, a medieval Latinist, ‘for teasing out some sense from the Asplin memorial tablet... inscribed in very dog-Latin’ and a ‘splendid tutor’ on the course on ‘History of Local Landscape’ at North Oxfordshire College, Deborah Hayter.

**Eastleach: A History of a Cotswold Village**, Nicholas Allen (hardback, x, 140pp). ISBN 0-9543617-4-1. Guidon Publishing (The Dovecote, 6 Turville Barns, Eastleach, Cirencester GL7 3QB). 2004. £17.50.

*Inscription in the chancel of Eastleach Martin parish church, recently transcribed by Jeremy Gibson – accuracy not guaranteed; not the transcript used by Helen Oates. Some of the carved letters have decayed, particularly at the foot and on the left.*

M.S. / MARIAE FILIAE IOHANNIS MYSTER DE / HORNTON IN AGRO  
OXONIENSI GENEROSI / CARISSIMAE VERO CONIVCIS WILLIELMI /  
ASPLIN CLERICI HVIVS ECCLESIAE RECTORIS / QVAE OMNIBVS  
VITAE OFFICIIS PROBE / FVNCTA ANIMAM DEO PLACIDE REDDIDIT /  
AD MDCCXXXVI AET SVAI L MORTALITATIS / AVTEM EXVVIAS HIC  
DEPOSVIT MARITVS

HIC ETIAM EODEM SUB LAPIDE AD 1758 ÆT SUÆ 71 / SEPULTUS EST  
PRÆDICTUS WILHELMUS ASPLIN A.M. ALKIBLÆ / AUTHOR. VERIET  
ÆQUI CULTOR. PACIS AMANS. NEMINI INVIDENS / [?HU]NC TAMEN  
(INIMICORUM UTPOTE SUFFITUM) SUMMAM SIBI / [...]TEN D[U]XIT  
QUOD MALIS USQUE INVISUS FUERIT

[J]US[TUS] IN DOMINO PONIT FIDUCIAM SUAM / PS.XL.IV