

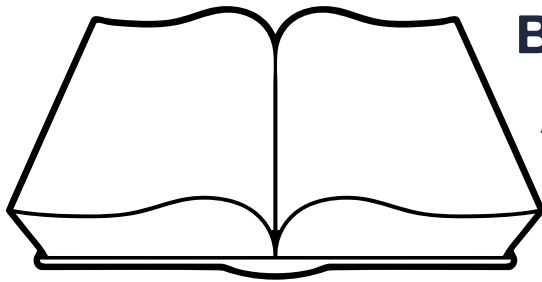


Anchor

The anchor is a symbol of hope and steadfastness, and eternal life. It is often found on sailors' headstones. Masons used it as a symbol of well-grounded hope. Early Christians used it as a disguised symbol of the cross.

Angels

Angels are symbolic messengers between God and man.



Book

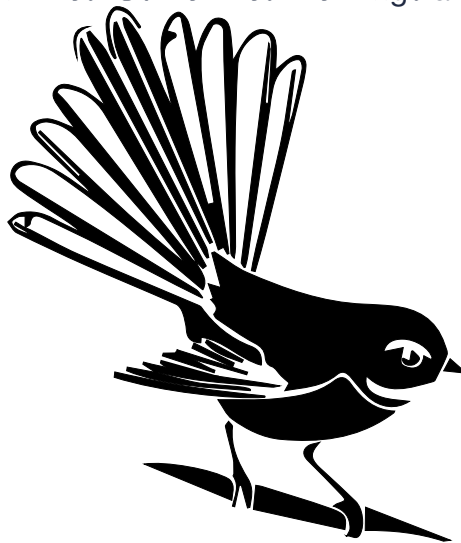
An open book usually symbolises the Bible and faith. Books may also represent knowledge or the Book of Life.

Birds

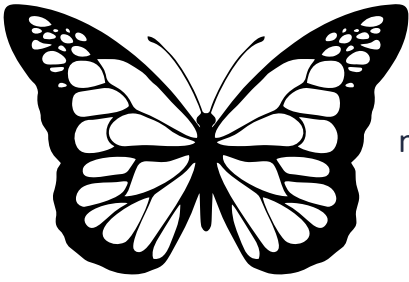
Birds are often a symbol of peace. When in flight they also may represent the winged soul, a tradition that goes back to Egyptian times. Sometimes the wings alone are chosen.



Tui



Fantail

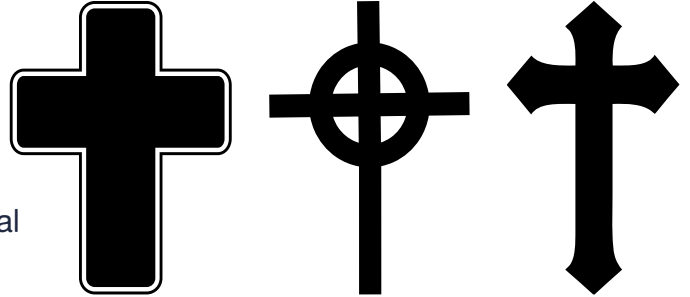


Butterfly

A butterfly symbol may represent rebirth, resurrection, or the natural cycle between birth and death. It may represent the soul and may be found on children's headstones.

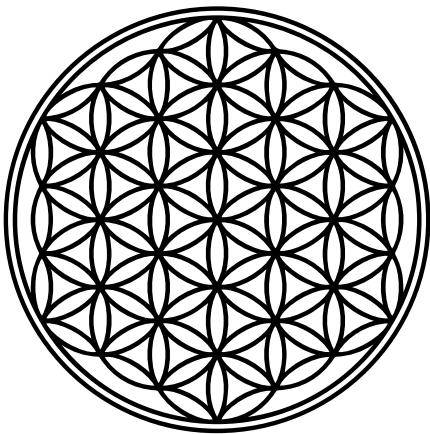
Cross

A simple Celtic cross is a symbol that combines a cross with a ring surrounding the intersection. This symbol has been a popular choice on gravestones since its revival in the 1850's. General crosses appear in many headstones.

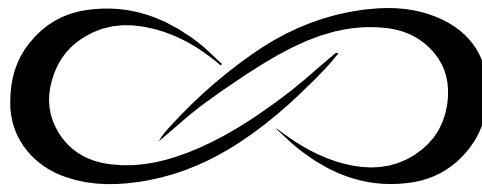


Circles and the infinity symbol

The circle is an ancient symbol of eternity, often found on Christian graves together with a cross. The circle has no beginning or end and may also symbolise resurrection.



Flower of Life



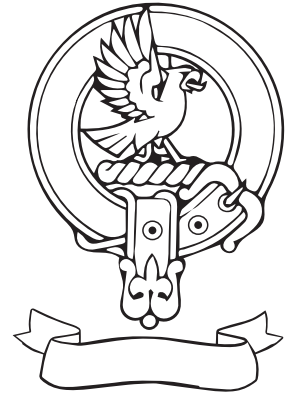
Clasped Hands

This is one of the most common headstone symbols. Often the hands are those of a man and woman and may represent a parting or farewell as well as unity in life and death. They may also represent a partnership or a bond between husband and wife for example.



Crests and Shields

Sometimes a full coat of arms would be too large for a headstone, and a good alternative is to choose a part of the coat of arms such as the shield or crest. Above are three examples of crests carved into headstones in sunken relief, as well as a crest depicting bat wings, also carved in sunken relief.



Dove

The dove is a Christian symbol of love and peace. The word "pacem" which means peace in Latin can be seen beneath this dove. The dove also symbolises purity, resurrection and the Holy Spirit

Dragonflies

The dragonfly is a symbol of change and transformation, joy, and lightness. It can also symbolise a connection with nature's spirits. Japan made the dragonfly its national emblem. In some Native American traditions, it is also a symbol of the departed souls.



Eagle

The eagle symbolises courage, strength and immortality, often regarded as a "king of the skies" and messenger of the Gods. The eagle is a Christian symbol of resurrection. This eagle is carved in sunken relief on a slate headstone.

Guitar

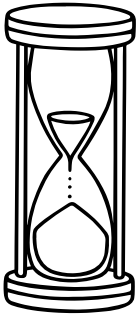
A guitar is a great way to represent music or the talent of a lost loved one.



Hearts

The heart is a symbol of life, love or immortality. The first heart above is carved in sunken relief, and the second is a Celtic heart, carved as a line carving into Purbeck limestone.

- A.  B.  C. (group of three) 



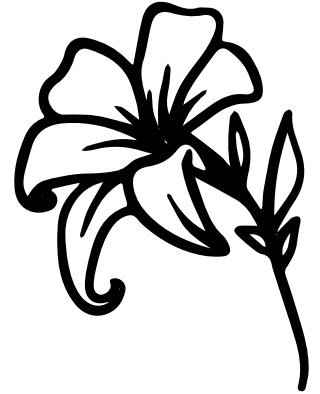
Hourglass

The hourglass is a symbol of death, the end of time on Earth. It may also be a symbol of rebirth and a new beginning when turned over. The winged hourglass is a symbol of man's fleeting time on Earth.

Lillies



The lily is a symbol of purity, chastity and innocence. It was a popular funeral flower in Victorian times, symbolising the returning of the soul to innocence at the time of death.



Music

Sometimes a few bars from a special piece of music can be carved into the headstone.



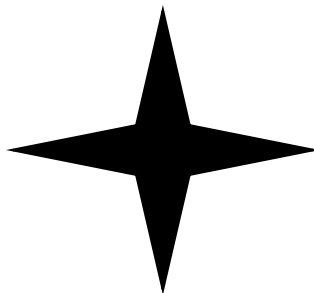
Stars

A star may symbolise eternity or immortality and divine guidance. A six-sided star or hexagram may symbolise creation, and is found commonly in Hinduism and Eastern religions. The two intersecting triangles may represent the delicate balance between man and God. For early Christians, the five-pointed star, or pentagram represented the five wounds of Christ. Stars also symbolise hope, dreams and life everlasting. Above is a gilded star carved within a letter.

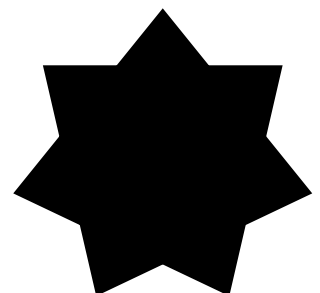
Option A.

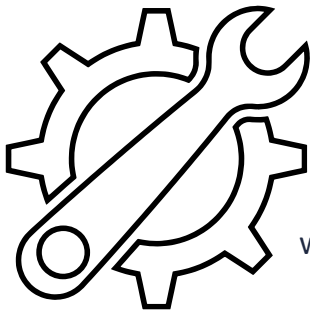


Option B.



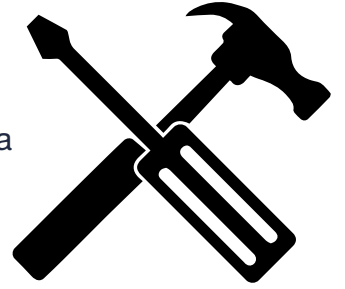
Option C.





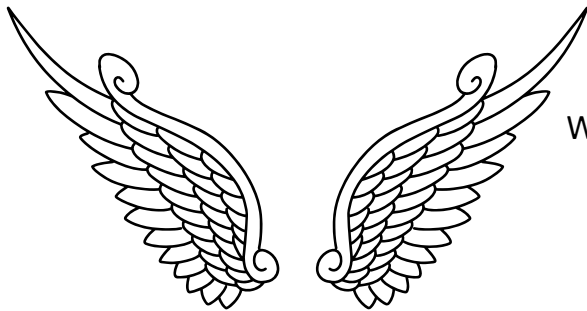
Tools

Most occupations can be symbolised by the tools of the trade. In this carving there is a chisel, mallet and a strip of wood indicating the person it commemorates was a woodcarver.



Tudor Rose

The Tudor rose (sometimes called the Union rose) is the traditional floral heraldic emblem of England. A Tudor rose on a headstone may indicate that the person it commemorates was of English descent. The Tudor rose on the headstone above is carved within a six-pointed star.



Wings

Wings make a great symbol for passing

DIVIDERS, BORDERS AND FRAMES

