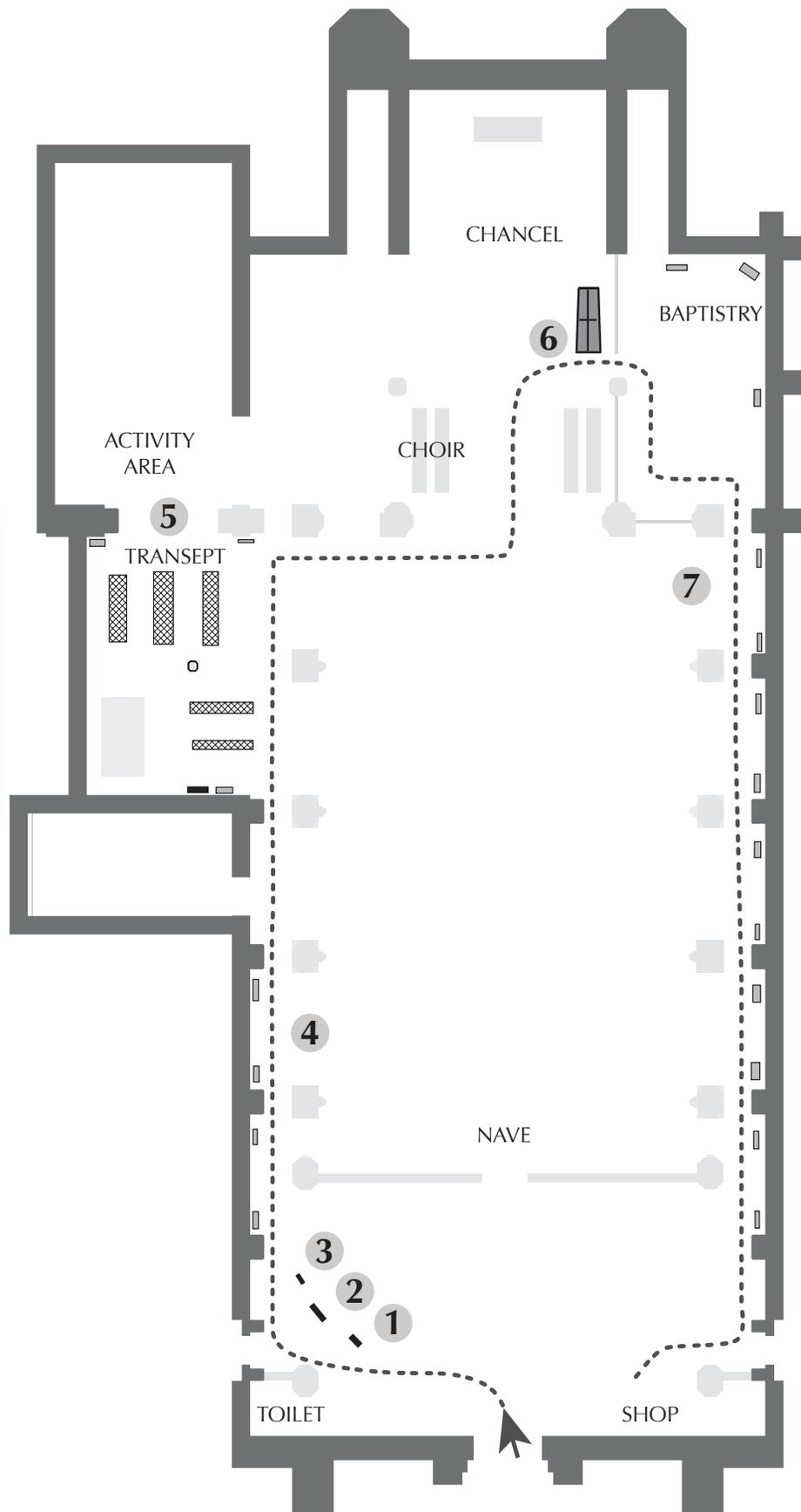


# Welcome to Govan Old Parish Church



- 1 The 'sun stone'
  - 2 The 'Jordanhill cross'
  - 3 The 'Cuddy stane'
  - 4 Grave slabs
  - 5 Hogbacks
  - 6 The stone coffin (sarcophagus)
  - 7 Grave slabs
- recumbent slabs
  - hogbacks
  - cross shafts
  - sarcophagus

There has been a church on this site for many centuries: it is believed that the first church here may have been built as long ago as the 5th or 6th century.

Govan was once a part of the kingdom of Strathclyde. The rulers of the kingdom (and perhaps even the kings themselves) were buried here, with splendid gravestones to mark their graves.

**Begin your walk around the church at the door where you entered. Follow the path shown on the map. If you have any questions please talk to our team of volunteers.**

**Enjoy your visit.**

Based on an original drawing by Brian Park

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As you explore the church and its stones think about some of the questions below and discuss them in your groups or with the volunteers you meet.

These first three stones are all in the entrance area of the church. Have a good look at them and then try to answer the questions below.

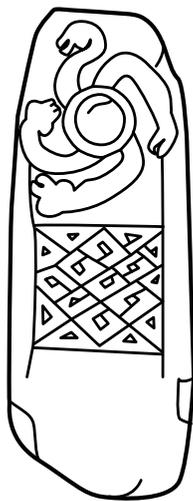
### 1. The 'sun stone'

How do you think that this stone got its name?

Look for the following creatures carved into this stone:

Horse | Bear | Giant snake

Are these mythical creatures or do they exist in the real world?



### 2. The 'Jordanhill cross'

This is the shaft or bottom part of a cross and is almost 1.7m high.

Can you see where the top part of the cross has broken off?

Look for the horseman.

### 3. The 'Cuddy stane'

'Cuddy' is the local word for donkey, can you find this animal on the stone?

Look for the lines of the cross on the back of the stone, they are very faint.

Next move into the aisle of the church and look at the stones on the walls

### 4. Grave slabs

What kinds of patterns can you see carved on these stones?

Try to remember these patterns and find out if they are repeated on other stones that you see later.

Although these stones were first carved about 1,000 years ago, the people of Govan have borrowed them as gravestones in more recent times.

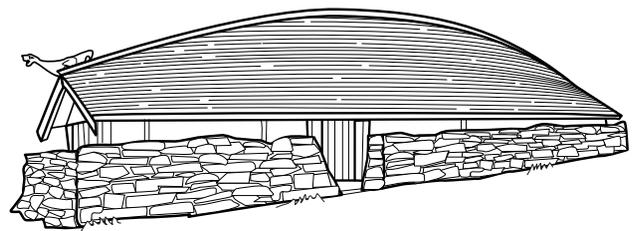
Can you see any names or initials that were carved into the stones in the last 400 years?

Walk down to the Transept at the bottom of this aisle where you will find a collection of large impressive stones known as 'hogbacks'.

### 5. Hogbacks

These long low stones with curving tops are known as hogbacks, why do you think they got this name?

These were made to cover graves and look a bit like small Viking longhouses.

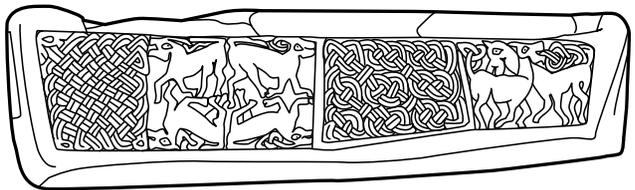


At the ends of the stones are carved fearsome creatures. Can you spot them?

Now cross over into the Choir and Chancel at the top of the church where you will find a carved coffin or sarcophagus.

### 6. Stone coffin or sarcophagus

This stone coffin was carved around the year 900. It was made to hold the remains of an important person, but it wasn't buried, instead it was put on display.



What sort of person do you think was buried in the coffin? Look at the clues in the carvings on the sides.

There is a snake hidden somewhere on the coffin. Its long and twisting body is tied up in knots, making a pattern known as 'interlace'.

Where else have you seen this pattern today?

### 7. Grave slabs

As you finish your tour and head back to the door where you came in, look at the grave slabs on this wall and try and spot any of the patterns that you saw earlier.

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit today and will come back and visit us again soon.