



This grave-slab (93c) inside the church shows a long-handled sword slanting from left to right. Below the sword, a procession of animals is depicted - an otter following a salmon, a dog or otter then two dogs side by side. Above the sword is a carving of a mermaid and to her right two more animals, possibly wolves. In the right hand corner are shears and a cutting tool. The carvings are more apparent when the graveslab is wet after rain.



A loose grave-slab (92b) located in the church. It has a loop design covering its surface formed by the intertwining of two cords.



Gaelic on two of the head stones.  
Translated as 'Until the day breaks'  
and 'Until He comes'.



There are still some words visible on the this family memorial to Alexander McNeill, his wife and two children. They were aboard the paddle steamer Orion which hit a submerged rock and sank off Portpatrick in June

1850 on its way from Liverpool to Glasgow. The family were four of the forty-one who drowned. (Grave 69b)

## DETAILS TO LOOK OUT FOR

A miller's headstone with representations of the mill stone and the mill rind (metal piece supporting the upper millstone). The axe suggests that the miller also sharpened blades. (Grave 76)



The coat of arms on this slab are possibly those of James Stevenson who died in August 1758. (Grave 52)



The workman's plane - showing the interred was a carpenter. (Grave 75)



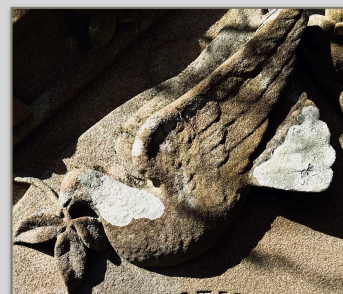
15th Century grave slab of Malcolm MacNeill, chieftain of the island. He died in 1493. (Grave 72)



Up to the late 19th Century the Macdonalds claimed their right for a burial within Kilchattan Church. This stone shows the 'Red Hand' carved in high relief and possibly represents 'the hand of God'. (Grave 95)



Two stones in memory of Lieut. Colonel W. J. Scarlett, one time laird of Gigha, his wife Henrietta and daughter Charlotte Anne. (Grave 112)



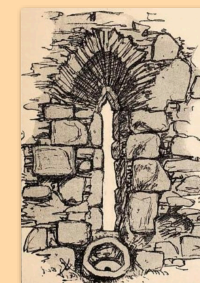
A dove carved on the grave of Susanna McNeill, a 4 year old girl. (Grave 66)

# OLD KILCHATTAN



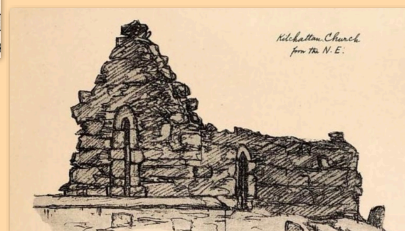
The church of Kilchattan dates from the 13th Century. It was a small rectangular building with a steep roof. The length of the building was about twice its breadth with tall lancet windows in each wall. The floor was covered in stone burial slabs, several of which can be seen today showing intricate carvings. The grave slabs are laid with foot and head alternating in an east-west direction.

Kilchattan was used until the early 18th Century when it was replaced by a new church opposite what is now Gigha Hotel. Opposite the churchyard, between the road and the telecommunications mast, was an old well dedicated to St. Catan.



The church is dedicated to St. Catan, a 6th Century Irish missionary, reputedly a contemporary of St. Columba. During its use the church had an octagonal font (left) beneath the eastern window. This font can now be found in Gigha Church, opposite Ardmish Stores.

The church building was last restored in 2010 when the exterior walls were consolidated and turf capped.



The grave stones record many occupations of the interred. The numbers below correspond with the numbers on the map.

Blacksmith 22. Carpenter 36, 75.  
 Engineer foreman 32.  
 Farmer 34, 40, 58, 88, 89, 109, 110.  
 Ferryman 13.  
 Mariner/seaman 11, 18, 26, 31, 69, 74, 102, 106.  
 Miller 62, 76, 81. Military 112.  
 Minister 38, 42, 49, 68, 70, 71.  
 School man/teacher 36, 77, 104.  
 Shepherd 104. Shoemaker 83.  
 War graves 8, 16, 18, 20, 21, 26, 31, 32, 40.  
 Weaver 60, 69.

Grave 18 is a memorial to John Wotherspoon who drowned when the cargo ship S.S. Gem hit a German mine. The SS Gem, was one of 20 ships sunk in three months off the coast of Scarborough.

Several graves reflect the high mortality in children notably graves 2, 4 and 110. Grave 110 is particularly poignant as it shows 4 children, in the same family, under the age of 7 died within two weeks of each other in 1865.

In an enclosure are memorials 70 and 71 for the two reverends both called James Curdie. Rev. James Curdie, rector of St. Anne's Jamaica being the uncle to Rev. James Curdie of Gigha and Cara. The uncle lived at the manse with his nephew until his death.






Most graves have more than one burial or memorial. There is one, grave 88, with nine named individuals. Running out of space, both sides of the stone have been engraved.

Grave 13 is for the ferryman William 'Willie' Orr. He had to row a large open boat to transfer up to 12 passengers, in all weathers, to Tayinloan or the passing steamer.

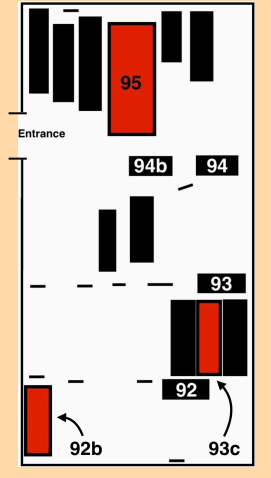
Grave 31 is a memorial to Captain John McGilvary who was on board the SS Setter which carrying a general cargo from Manchester to the Clyde when it was torpedoed.

# OLD KILCHATTAN GRAVEYARD

**KEY TO MAP SYMBOLS**

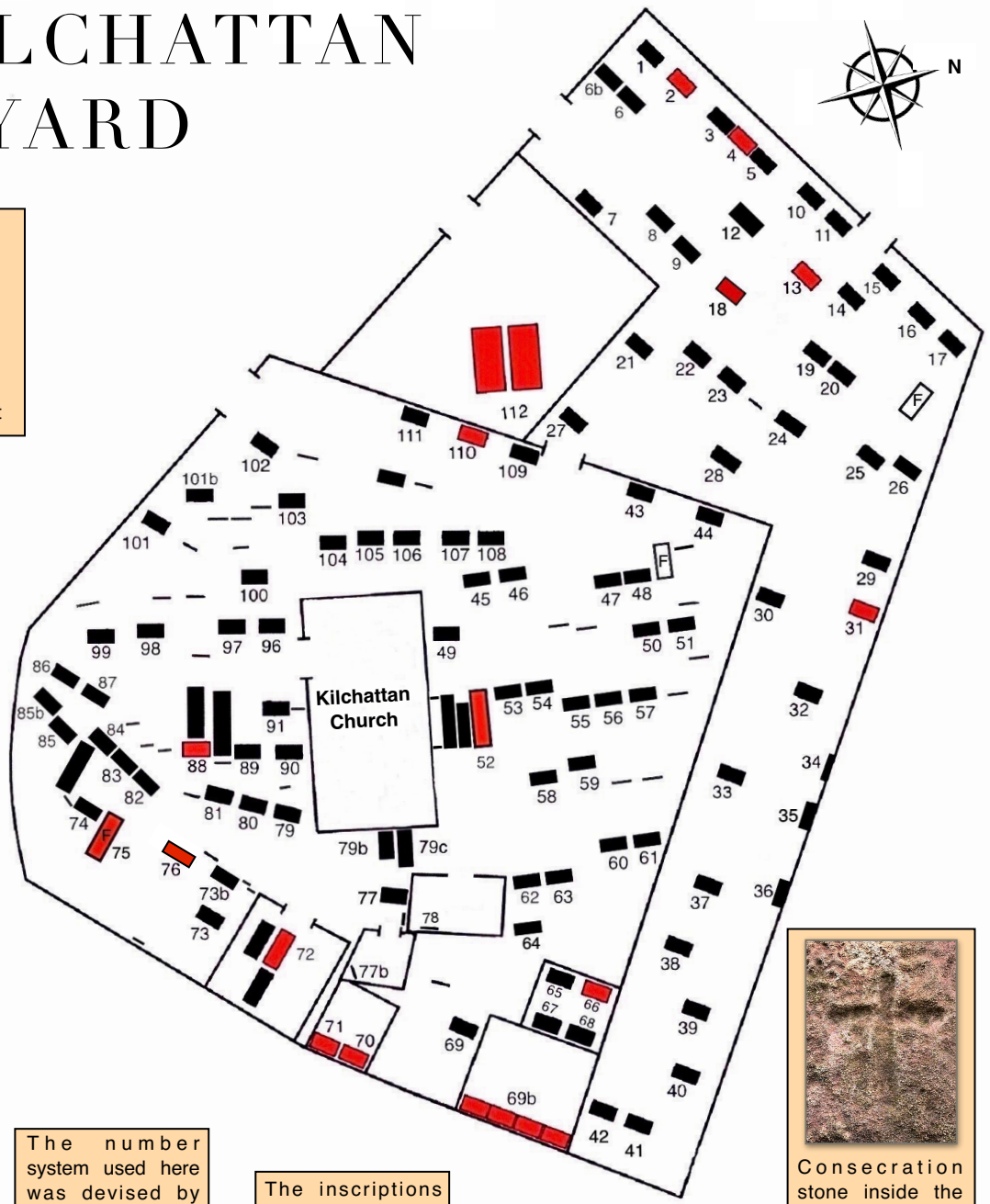
-  Headstone
-  Graveslab
-  Fallen headstone
-  Grave marker
-  Grave highlighted in text

**KILCHATTAN CHURCH INTERIOR PLAN**



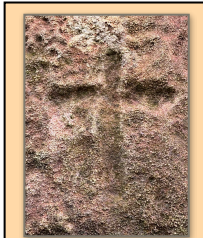
Please respect all those that are now at rest at Kilchattan Graveyard. Their monuments are precious to Gigha's heritage.

Please also do not enter the fenced enclosures due to loose stonework and damaged metalwork.



The number system used here was devised by Rona Allan of Gigha. They are not the actual plot numbers.

The inscriptions written on the grave stones can be accessed online at: [www.gigha.org.uk](http://www.gigha.org.uk)



Consecration stone inside the church. Look for another on the outside of the window.

