

## THE CHURCH AND SCOTTISH HISTORY

Both **THE** Church and, in fact, **THIS** church have important places in Scottish history and culture that are still relevant today. A Scottish preacher called **John Knox** preached in this church in 1559. The sermon he preached triggered the **Scottish Reformation**, a key event both in our Church history and our cultural history.



**QUESTION:** What do you think the word **Reformation** might mean? (Hint: think of the root of the word)

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## THE CHURCH AND SCOTTISH POLITICS

Even politics has some long held traditions that involve the Church. Many **Scottish Town Councils**, including **Perth and Kinross** & the **Scottish Parliament**, hold a '**Kirking of the Council/Parliament**' service at the beginning of each new session.



**QUESTION:** Suggest what you think 'kirking' might involve?

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## MORE SYMBOLS

Next to the pulpit there is a special table called a '**communion table**'. This is where Christians share some important symbols to remember a very special meal celebrated by Jesus and his closest followers.



**QUESTION:** Do you know, or can you guess, what is eaten and drunk and what they might represent?

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## FAITH IN ACTION

Christians believe that their faith should be shown in how they live their lives. One way of doing this is to commit their time, money and talents to worthwhile causes. On the noticeboards just inside the church you will see some examples of this.



**CHOOSE ANY ONE EXAMPLE AND SAY WHAT THIS ORGANISATION DOES?**

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# WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S KIRK OF PERTH



## A GUIDE FOR S1-3 PUPILS



The Church of Scotland

SC017132

WHY 'ST JOHN'S' CHURCH?

The church is named after **John the Baptist** and it was possibly an ancient monarch or benefactor who selected the name. The Bible tells us that John was Jesus’ 2nd cousin and was the first person to use the symbol of water to ‘cleanse people from sin’. This symbol is still used when a person is **'baptised'** i.e. when promises are made to either bring a child up in the Christian faith, or, if an adult is baptised, they make their own promises. John also recognised Jesus as God’s Son and named him **'the Lamb of God'**.

**QUESTION:** Where can you see this symbol in the church and why do you think a ‘lamb’ was chosen?



TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH 'LIFE EVENTS' AND 'RITES OF PASSAGE' STILL CELEBRATED IN CHURCH

Baptism is one of the ‘life events’ mentioned previously. Others are weddings, funerals and of course Christian festivals such as Christmas, Harvest and Easter

**QUESTION:** Which life event do you think is celebrated here?



Where in the church can you find evidence that some people choose to marry in a church?

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Apart from war memorials, where can you find evidence that families want to remember someone who has died?

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SYMBOLS AND SACRIFICES

On the north side of the church are two interesting ‘symbols’. One side has the war memorial, with the names of those from Perth and Kinross who sacrificed their lives in both World Wars and in other theatres of war and conflict.



Opposite the memorial is an image of a cross, called a crucifix, as it has the imagined outline of the body of Christ on it.

**QUESTION:** Thinking about war and suffering, why do you think these two images might have been hung across from one another? What conclusion might you draw from that?

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MORE SHAPES

There are three other ‘crosses’ to think about. The church is built in the shape of a cross and a large cross hangs down from the roof.



**QUESTION:** Why is this *shape* so important in the Christian faith?

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This third cross is a modern painting called **'THE RISING SON'**. There are some clues to what the painter was trying to represent .

**QUESTION:** Have a close look at the shapes, colours, etc. in the painting and have a guess about what was in the painter’s mind?

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