

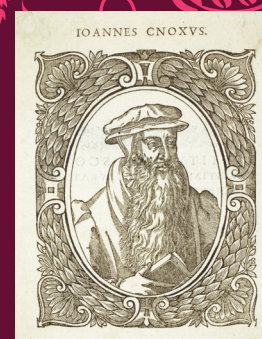
# ST JOHN'S TOWN

An artist's impression of the building of the new choir in 1440.



The oldest church in Perth, St John's Kirk, may date back to the early 11th century. This was about 200 years before the town was granted the status of royal burgh in 1208. John Knox preached here in 1559, kindling the Protestant Reformation in Scotland. The burgh's graveyard surrounded the kirk until it became completely full in 1580. Five hundred years of burials raised the ground - that's why you have to step down into the kirk.

- The kirk gave the name 'St John's Toun' to Perth, which is echoed by the football club's name of St Johnstone.
- St John's Kirk was first mentioned in 1126 and completed in 1241. A new choir was added to the building in 1440.
- During the Reformation, the angry congregation destroyed all forty altars to saints in the kirk and the four monasteries around Perth.
- After the Reformation, St John's was partitioned when the parish was split into three congregations. The kirk was remodelled in 1923.
- What you see today was designed by Sir Robert Lorimer. The church was restored as a memorial to the Perthshire men who died in World War I - but you can still see many medieval features.



John Knox by an unknown artist.



Perth on 11th May 1559, the day when John Knox preached.



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