

## The Church of Scotland - Article 2

### John Knox

John Knox began his preaching career at St. Andrew's Castle following the death of Wishart. He didn't stay there long, because the French navy attacked the castle on the instructions of the Queen Mother, Mary of Guise.

Knox was captured and imprisoned in the French galleys. On his release he went to England where he became a priest in the Anglican Church, and gained a position of authority under the Protestant King, Edward VI.

But Knox's bad luck had not ended. King Edward was soon succeeded by Mary I who became notorious for her brutal treatment of Protestants. Mary's reign of terror led Knox to flee to the continent, where he eventually settled in Geneva.

It was there that Knox began working with John Calvin, the founder of Calvinism, an influential form of Protestant teaching.

In 1559 John Knox returned permanently to Scotland where his preaching and direction played a crucial role at the beginnings of the Scottish Reformation.

### The Reformation

Throughout the 16th Century the Reformation was taking effect in Western Europe. It came to Scotland in 1560, where it soon gathered momentum.

John Knox was a fierce campaigner for Protestant principles. He was famous for arguing with Mary Queen of Scots, a devout Catholic, over Roman beliefs and practices that he believed were idolatrous.

Knox and his colleagues wrote an important declaration of faith, known as The Scots Confession. The document was accepted by the Scottish Parliament in 1560.

Attempts were made to impose the same episcopal form of church government that was used in England on the Church of Scotland during the reigns of both Charles I and Charles II, but these were successfully resisted.

In 1690, under William of Orange who had supported and promoted the Reformation on the continent of Europe, Presbyterianism was recognised as the official form of government in the Scottish Church.

***This is the second part of a series of articles sourced from the BBC on the Church of Scotland that will appear in The Parishioner over the coming months.***