

# The Church of Scotland - Article 5

## Beliefs

The Church of Scotland is one of the Reformation churches. It believes that this means that it must continue to reform as new insights are gained about the church and how it can meet the needs of the times.

The main beliefs of the Church of Scotland are found within the Bible, in the New and Old Testaments together.

Like all mainstream churches, it accepts the doctrine of the Holy Trinity; that God is experienced as Father, Son (in Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit.

It sees Jesus Christ as the only head of the church and teaches that the church is his "body".

The Church of Scotland believes that God demonstrated his love for humanity through his son Jesus Christ and offers to reconcile people to each other and to God.

The Church believes God wants the world to be a just place where people show concern for others and treat each other with equality and respect.

The Church believes God exists alongside people in a spiritual form. The Holy Spirit provides strength, security and peace, yet also challenges pride, hostility, dishonesty and other faults.

The Church believes that the Holy Spirit is present in today's world, challenging human pride and aggression which cause conflict, and offering strength, security and peace to those who become followers of Jesus Christ.

## Holy Books

The Bible has a central place in the life and worship of the Church. It is usually read and preached from at services.

The Church of Scotland does not have a prayer book which has to be followed but does have a book of resources and models for worship.

The singing of hymns is an important feature of services and most members possess their own hymn book.

## Customs and practices

As a 'national' church, the Church of Scotland sees its duty as being to relate to all citizens and institutions, providing opportunities for learning about the Christian faith, and for worship and pastoral care for all. As well as service to local communities and other social programmes it provides a comprehensive structure of institutional care.

***This is the fifth part of a series of articles sourced from the BBC on the Church of Scotland that will, and have, appeared in The Parishioner over the coming months.***