



Archbishop Sharp memorial

Another kind of **marble** was used to create the monument to Archbishop Sharp, after whom the Sharp aisle is named. The monument was made in Holland but the marble probably came from either France or Italy. The black rock is also called **marble** but in reality is a dark coloured **limestone** which takes a polish. Sharp preached his inaugural sermon here in 1662 but was later murdered by Covenanters on Magus Muir (near Strathkinness village) in ~~1679~~ 1679.

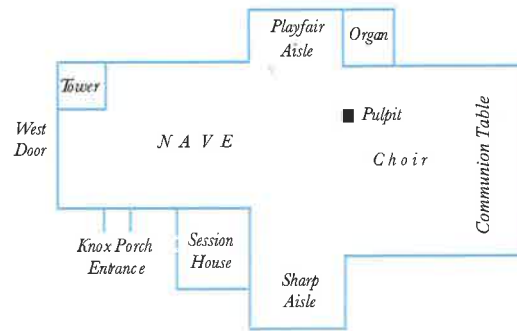
**RETURN TO THE NAVE AND TURN RIGHT TOWARDS THE EAST WINDOW**



Intricate carving on sandstone pillar

One of the pillars has some ornate carvings of faces and foliage. This intricate work is only possible because of the hard and fine-grained nature of **Cullaloe sandstone**.

### Plan of the Church



Holy Trinity Church is an imposing edifice in the centre of St Andrews. It is a testimony to the diligent use of stone by our ancestors who created a space in which you can commune with your own personal spiritual dimension.

Take time to experience it.

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#### Bibliography

Wolfe, C.M. 1998. A new guide to the parish church of the Holy Trinity, St. Andrews.

*Produced jointly by*

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# Holy Trinity Church St. Andrews

- a testimony in stone



The town church of the Holy Trinity in St. Andrews is one of the great burgh churches of Scotland. The present church, built in 1412 and rebuilt in 1909, replaced an older building that is believed to have existed in the grounds of the old cathedral, and which had been consecrated by Bishop David de Bernham in 1243.

**TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE ITS  
STONE HERITAGE, INSIDE AND OUT.**



*What mean ye by these stones? Joshua 4:6*

The present church is the result of a major rebuild which took place between 1907 and 1909, when a late 18th C balcony was removed and the building largely returned to its medieval form, constructed with **Cullaloe sandstone** from quarries near Aberdour in Fife.

***WALK OUTSIDE TO THE WEST DOOR***

The dark grey weathering so typical of this stone is well displayed outside, particularly in the lower courses of the building. The tower, parts of the west wall and some columns inside the church are all that remain of the original 15th Century building. It was built of **Nydie sandstone** hewn from Strathkinness, 3 miles west of St. Andrews, and some sea stone. Stone from Strathkinness was hewn from quarries (now filled in) which lay to the west of the village.



The West side of the tower shows the use of both older rough Nydie sandstone and newer Cullaloe stone. A consecration mark is clearly visible spanning both types of stone.

Of particular note is a pre-Reformation consecration cross carved on stone blocks on the west front; the upper part is original, while the lower part is a modern restoration.

***NOW SEEK A VIEW OF THE ROOF***

Holy Trinity Church roof



Another important feature of this church is the roof which is covered with **Caithness flagstones**. This stone tends to split into slabs, thicker than traditional slate but more robust.

***NOW ENTER THE CHURCH , TURN RIGHT AND INSPECT THE PILLARS***



Pillar built of sandstone blocks showing examples of both original stones (dark grey) and 1909 renovations (paler).

***WALK ON TOWARDS THE PULPIT***

The pulpit is a work of art and is made of **onyx, alabaster** and **Iona marble**. Iona marble, which forms the lower part of the pulpit and the steps leading up to it, has distinctive green streaks and is unique to Scotland. Iona marble is a metamorphosed limestone (altered by heat and pressure) and is believed to be over 1 billion years old.



Pulpit showing alabaster top and Iona marble base

The green streaks are formed of the mineral **serpentine**, a magnesium and iron silicate. The quarry on the Isle of Iona from which this stone was quarried is now disused, although pieces of this stone can still be found today in the disused quarry and the beaches of Iona by the adventurous explorer.