



1 St Thomas the Martyr

St Thomas Street, Bristol BS1 6QR

Opening times: Wednesdays 10.30am - 2.30pm or by appointment

A fine Classical building of 1792-93, with an imposing east end, this church was designed by James Allen, and incorporates the fifteenth century tower of an earlier church on the site.

The original church was in a wealthy trading area and some of its fine furnishings have been retained, such as the carved oak altarpiece from 1716, the early Georgian organ and gallery, and a carved pulpit. Nineteenth century alterations included the reduction of the pulpit, and refashioning of pews, and the rebuilding of the organ, but the interior is still stunning – grand, filled with light from its arched windows, and with amazing acoustics.

The church is available for hire for performance or exhibition space and may be opened for viewing at other times on request.

Tel: 07872 502118 Email: rireland@tcct.org.uk
Website: www.visitchurches.org.uk



“Designed by James Allen, and incorporates the fifteenth century tower of an earlier church on the site”

2 Bristol Cathedral

College Green, Bristol BS1 5TJ

Opening times: Daily 8.00am - until after Evensong

A church has probably stood on this site for over a thousand years but it came to prominence in 1140 when Robert Fitzharding founded the Abbey of St. Augustine. The Chapter House and Abbey Gatehouse remain clearly to be seen: other remains are within Bristol Cathedral Choir School.

The eastern end of the Cathedral, especially in the Choir, gives Bristol Cathedral a unique place in the development of British and European Architecture. The Nave, Choir and Aisles are all the same height, making a large hall. Bristol Cathedral is the major example of a ‘Hall Church’ in Great Britain and one of the finest anywhere in the world.

Tel: 0117 926 4879 Email: reception@bristol-cathedral.co.uk
Website: www.bristol-cathedral.co.uk



4 St John the Baptist

Broad Street/Nelson Street, Bristol BS1 2EZ

Opening times: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
10.00am - 1.00pm or by appointment

St John's is the only remaining church built into Bristol's city walls in the 12th century, acting both as part of the city's defences, and as places for travellers to offer prayers before a journey. The present building dates from the 14th century, with its tower and spire above the North gate of the wall. Below the church lies an atmospheric vaulted crypt, a former prestigious burial place. The church is also the destination of a thirteenth century water conduit. Today, the building offers peace and beauty right in the heart of the city.

The church and crypt are available for hire for performance or exhibition space and may be opened for viewing at other times on request.

Tel: 07872 502118 Email: rireland@tcct.org.uk
Website: www.visitchurches.org.uk

3 The Cathedral Church of Saints Peter and Paul

Clifton Cathedral, Clifton Park, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3BX

Opening times: Daily 7.00am - 6.00pm

The Mother Church of the Catholic community in the West of England and home to a thriving parish serving the people of the local area, the stunning Cathedral was consecrated 1973. Home to some magnificent religious art, the Cathedral is renowned around the world as a place of liturgical and musical excellence. The acoustically vibrant Cathedral hosts concerts throughout the year and has been the venue for many services broadcast on television radio around the world. A place of quiet and prayerful reflection for all who enter. Everyone is most welcome.

Tel: 0117 973 8411 Email: cathedral@cliftondiocese.com
Website: www.cliftoncathedral.org.uk



“St John the Baptist church dates from the 14th century, the oldest part being the vaulted crypt, or lower church, a prestigious burial place.”



6 St Mary Redcliffe

Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 5NL

Opening times: Daily 8.30am - 5.00pm. (On certain festivals the Church is only open for worship-please check our website.)

St Mary Redcliffe is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Within its walls you will find a superb collection of carved bosses, elegant eighteenth century ironwork, beautiful stained glass and a world famous organ. Queen Elizabeth I once referred to it as “The fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England”. The church is sited on the red cliffs above the floating harbour and was originally at the very centre of shipping and industry which is the key to its history. The merchants of the Port of Bristol began and ended their voyages at the shrine of Our Lady of Redcliffe and to them, especially William Canynge and his grandson in the 14th and 15th centuries, we owe the body of the Church as it is today.

Tel: 0117 929 1487 Email: parish.office@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk
Website: www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk



8 The New Room/John Wesley's Chapel

36 The Horsefair, Bristol BS1 3JE

Opening times: Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm

The New Room, also known as John Wesley's Chapel, dates back to 1739 and is the oldest Methodist building in the world. As Wesley's first headquarters, it remains a place of worship and pilgrimage for visitors from all over the world. In addition to the chapel, which can be seen as it was in 1748 when the building was extended; there are preachers' rooms upstairs which now accommodate the MLA accredited museum. Through a number of Wesley's own personal items, along with pictures, books and other artefacts, the museum helps to tell the story of his life and how the Methodist Church came to be founded on his work and ideas.

Tel: 0117 926 4740 Email: info@newroombristol.org.uk
Website: www.newroombristol.org.uk



5 St James Priory

Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NZ

Opening times: Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday 8.00am for Mass closing at 9.00am.



St James is the oldest church in Bristol; it was established in 1129 on the north side of the Frome, in the site of Bristol Castle. In the 12th century, it was a Benedictine Priory founded by Robert Earl of Gloucester, a figure of national importance. It is thought to have the oldest wheel window in the country. In its day, the monks who

lived here were considered to be the ‘social services’ for all the community around. In the 18th century, John and Charles Wesley, who were ordained Anglican ministers and founders of the Methodist Church, considered St James as their local parish church and preached here on many occasions.

Tel: 0117 929 9100 Email: adminoffice@stjamespriory.org.uk
Website: www.stjamespriory.org.uk



“The fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England.”

Queen Elizabeth I on St Mary Redcliffe

7 St Pauls

Portland Square, Bristol BS2 8SJ

Opening times: Daily 9.00am - 5.00pm. Visitors are advised to check beforehand on 0117 924 7615

Set in its historic churchyard, St Paul's is the focal point of one of the few and best surviving 18th-century squares in Bristol. Built in 1789-95 to designs by Daniel Hague, it is among the most important examples of provincial Gothic architecture. The glory of the interior is the animated and elegant plasterwork of the nave ceiling and chancel arch. A fine collection of monuments includes a memorial by Flaxman to Col. Spencer Thomas Vassall.

The church is now the home of Circomedia, a circus school and venue available for hire, with modern facilities and a state of the art performance space within the Georgian interior.

Tel: 0117 924 7615 Email: joannacrowson@circomedia.com
Website: www.circomedia.com / www.visitchurches.org.uk



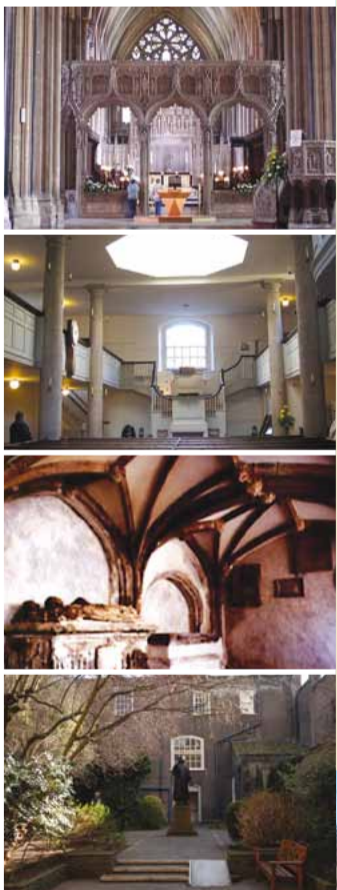
A guide and map to Bristol's Cathedrals and Churches.



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- www.visitchurches.org.uk
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- www.stjamespriory.org.uk
- www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk
- www.newroombristol.org.uk
- www.saint-stephens.com



10 St Mark's - The Lord Mayor's Chapel

College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

Opening times: Wednesday - Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sundays open for Worship

The Chapel, which is the only Civic Church in England, is the only remaining building of the Hospital of Saint Mark, founded in 1220 as a daughter house of Saint Augustine's Abbey, (Bristol Cathedral), by Maurice de Gaunt and reformed into a fully independent community in 1230 by Robert de Gournay, nephew and heir of Maurice de Gaunt. Its function was to provide food and care for 100 poor people per day, which it did for over 300 years until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. The Hospital and its lands were purchased by the City Council in 1541 for the sum of £1,000.

The Chapel contains many fine features, including a large collection of painted and stained glass dating from the 13th to 19th centuries as well as many fine monuments and a beautiful Tudor panelled ceiling. There is also a Tudor Chantry Chapel, built by Sir Robert Poyntz of Iron Acton, the floor of which, reputedly, is laid with the largest collection of 16th century Spanish tiles outside Spain.

Tel: 0117 929 4350 Email: royalist165@hotmail.com

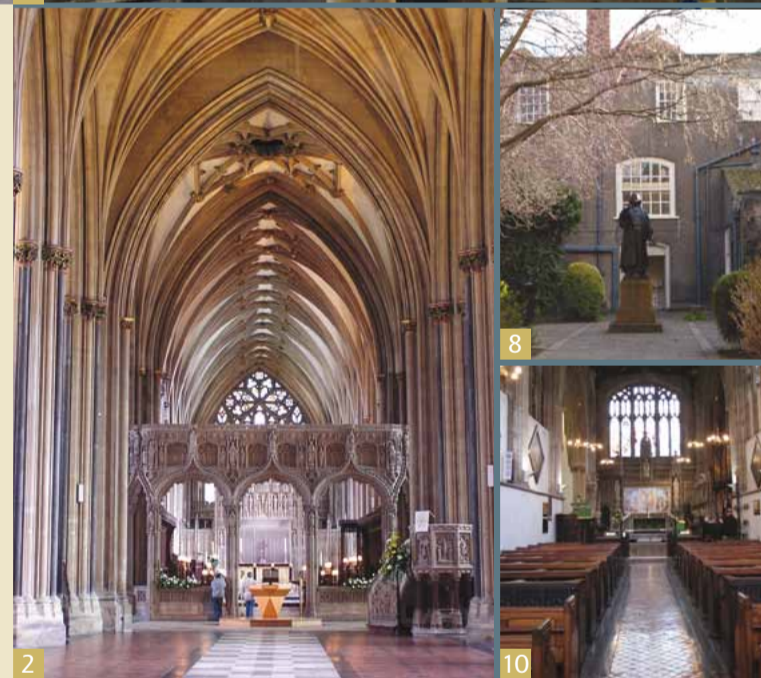
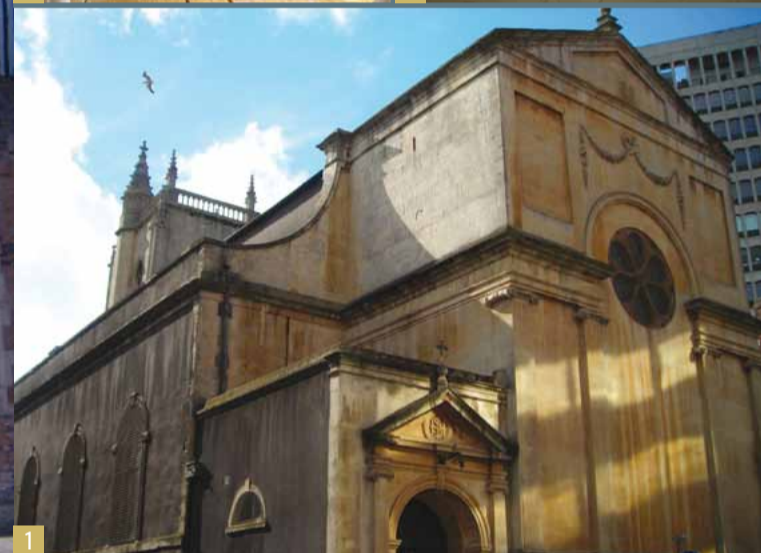
9 St Stephen's Church

St Stephen Street, Bristol, BS1 1EQ

Opening times: Monday - Saturday 8.30am - 4.00pm
Sundays and access through the Church Cafe

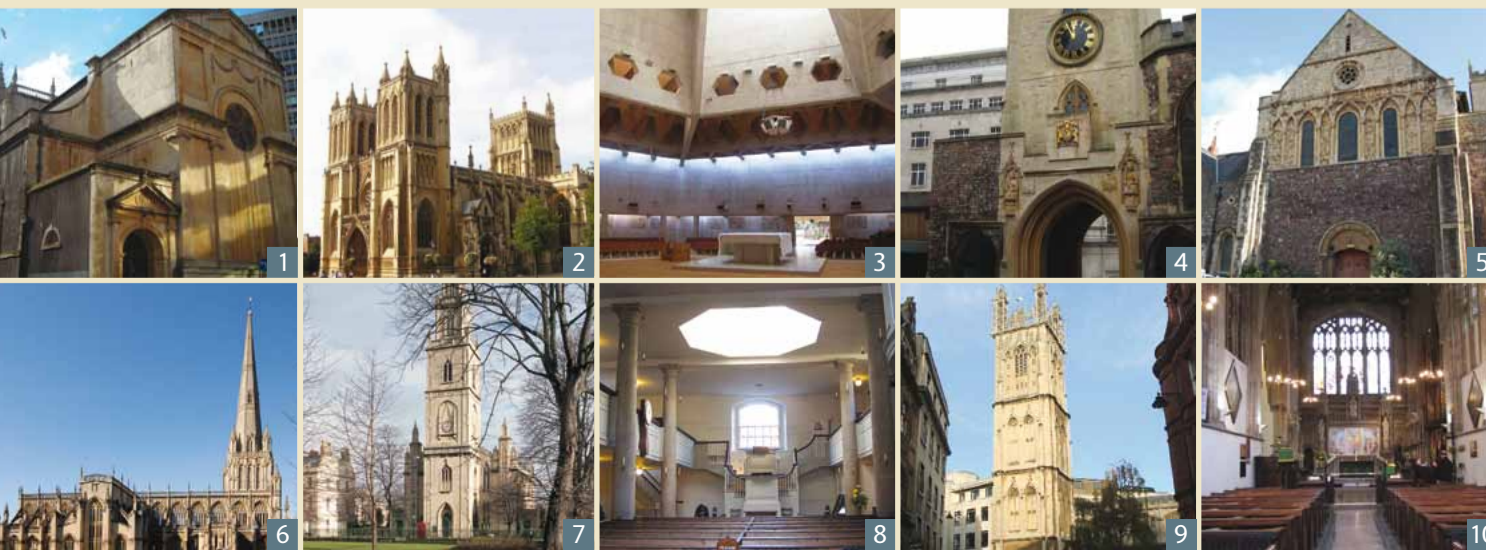
Saint Stephen's is the City Parish Church its original mission dating 1247 when the River Frome was moved to extend the city with a new harbour and Trans-Atlantic port growing new communities and businesses. Monuments bear witness to Bristol's explorers and merchants and through the ages the building has been enhanced by artists and craftsmen. The majestic 152 foot Somerset-type tower was provided by the merchant John Shipward. Elegant fan vaulting, a significant C15 brass eagle lectern, wrought iron gates and sword rest by William Edney (1710) lead to the stained glass East window and carved stone reredos inspired by Charles Hansom (1875). Currently the artist Graeme Eveyln is part of the restoration creating the Reconciliation Reredos; a contribution to the city's handling of the legacy of the slave trade.

Tel: 0117 9277977 Email: mailto:info@saint-stephens.com
Website: www.saint-stephens.com



Bristol is proud not only of its rich history and seafaring links, but also of its religious heritage. There are a profusion of churches and places of worship for visitors to enjoy.

The wonderful buildings contained in this guide are just some of the remarkable locations that have helped to make Bristol a place of significant religious importance and architectural excellence. All the Cathedrals and Churches featured are free to visit and welcome both worshippers and non-worshippers alike.



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