Churches Conservation Trust

Welcome to St. Paul's

Bristol, BS2

Map symbols

- Suggested route
- 1 Point of interest



Audio tour
Scan here or visit izi.Travel


10

8



5

1 A trendy new suburb
Fashionable new suburbs like Brunswick Sq. and Portland Sq. were built for Bristol's growing population in the late 1700s. They were popular amongst wealthy merchants.

2 Residential exodus
Clifton became a more popular place to live in the 1800s. Many St. Paul's residents moved there, but factories and workshops filled their now empty former homes.

3 A war-torn community
St. Paul's didn't escape the Bristol Blitz and the devastation it caused is still evident on the corner of Portland Sq. Many moved to safer areas, if the could afford to.

4 The Windrush Generation
After the war, Britain was in dire need of help to rebuild. African-Carribean migrants answered the call, many of whom settled in St. Paul's. However, they were faced with discrimination and outright hostility on arrival.

5 The Bristol Bus Boycott
In 1963, an action group called for a boycott of Bristol's buses because of a colour-bar on new drivers. Its success paved the way for important law and societal change.

6 The Black and White Cafe
Bertram Wilk's opened the Cafe in 1971, offering Caribbean food and a social hub for a left-behind community. Allegedly a drug den, it was the most police-raided cafe in England. It closed in 2004 and was later demolished.

7 The St. Paul's uprising
In 1980, police raided the Black and White Cafe but heavy-handedness was blamed for the violent unrest that followed. The notorious event was a wake-up call for Britain's police.

8 St. Paul's Carnival
The Carnival started in 1968, to bring communities together through home-cooked food and "sound system" music. It rivals Notting Hill Carnival and challenges the negative views held about the area.

9 The Bamboo Club
Tony and Lalel Bullimore opened this music club in 1966 welcoming people of all races. It attracted big names like Martha Reeves and Bob Marley until a tragic fire in 1977 closed it forever.

10 Welcome to the circus
St. Paul's Church is now home to Circomedia, a circus school. It provides a sanctuary physical theatre and the increased footfall to the area has contributed to reducing crime and revitalising the community.

Special thanks to…
M shed · Bristol Archives · Circomedia Centre for Contemporary Circus and Physical Theatre

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About St. Paul's

Portland Square, Bristol, BS2 8SJ

When architect Daniel Hague built his “gothick” masterpiece St. Paul’s Church, the crowning jewel of the Grade I listed Portland Square, he founded a parish which became a sanctuary for marginalised people that has improved countless lives and enriched Bristol’s cultural landscape

St. Paul's African-Caribbean community have called this parish home since the "Windrush Generation" arrived in Britain. For decades this community has been a powerful voice for equality and driven social change despite experiencing prejudice and adversity.

This walking trail and accompanying audio tour reveal stories about some of the people, places and events that tell significant parts of England’s diverse story.

Free audio tour

Scan the QR or visit the izi.Travel website to access.

Award-winning heritage conservation and regeneration

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity protecting historic churches at risk.

We’ve saved over 340 beautiful buildings which attract more than 1.5 million visitors a year.

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BRISTOL ARCHIVES

CIRCOMEDIA
CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS AND PHYSICAL THEATRE

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St. Paul’s, Bristol

Parish trail and audio tour

