A church has probably stood on this site for over a thousand years but it came to prominence in 1140 when Robert Fitzhardinge 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.

St Thomas the Martyr
St Thomas Street, Bristol BS1 6QR

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

St James Priory
Whitson Street, Bristol BS1 3NZ

Opening times: Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

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 Pauls
Portland Square, Bristol BS2 8SJ

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

The New Room/John Wesley’s Chapel
36 The Horsecar, Bristol BS1 3JE

Opening times: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

“The fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England.”
Queen Elizabeth I on St Mary Redcliffe

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