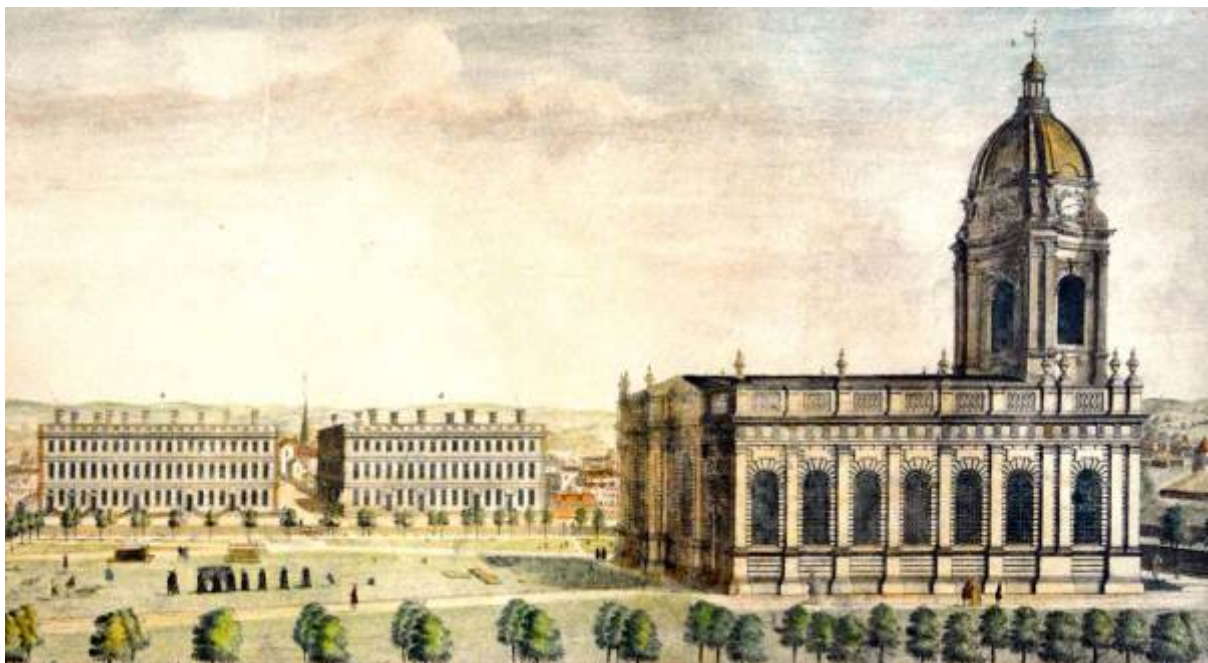


Historical Images of the Town and Square

The following four images section are shown with kind permission from Birmingham Cathedral



The South West Prospect of St Philip's Birmingham 18th Century



The North Prospect of St Philip's 18th Century by Robert Jones



The East Prospect of St Philip's Church 18th Century



Engraving of St Philip's Church

History of Square

The text below is quoted from <http://www.birminghamcathedral.com/cathedralsquare/>

The early churchyard was enclosed by a stone wall on three of its sides, and from an early date there were paths running around the perimeter and across the churchyard. Although the churchyard is now much reduced in size in the early C18th, a rectory was built on the corner of Temple Row and St Philip's place and the Blue Coat School on the corner of St Philip's Place and Colmore Row. There were grand three storey homes on Temple Row. Although not originally planned as a square the area around St Philip's was developed with an eye to enhancing and preserving its attractive qualities.

- Thought to be around 60,000 burials in the churchyard.
- In 1858 the burial ground was closed to further burials, conditions were very poor and potentially a threat to public health
- There are about 100 monuments left visible.
- Very occasionally new ones are added to mark a person or event of significance, most notably there is a memorial to all 21 who died in the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings and it was erected in 1995.

Listed monuments in the churchyard include:

- The Samuel Lines monument to the founder of the Royal Birmingham School of Art and artist in his own right The Unett Monument to an important soldier who fought at Sebastapool
- The Burnaby Obelisque commemorates Colonel Frederick Burnaby who was killed at an unsuccessful attempt to rescue General Gordon of Khartoumin 1884 and who had once stood to be a Birmingham MP
- The statue of Bishop Gore installed in 1914 during his lifetime
- The Angel Fountain which came from Christchurch, a daughter church of St Philip's demolished in 1899
- The Town Hall memorial which consists of a stone column identical to the ones on the Town Hall. It commemorates the deaths of William Badger and John Heap who died when working in the construction of the Town Hall in 1833, a memorial service is held by the monument every year.

The graves reveal the variety of professions that would be expected in a rapidly expanding town of the 18th and 19th centuries including surgeons, lawyers and craftsmen but also, reflecting the particular trades of this city, gun makers, and artists.

People and the Cathedral

- Matthew Boulton, industrialist and entrepreneur and founder of the famous Lunar Society was baptised at St Philip's.
- William Small, a fellow Lunar Society member and tutor to Thomas Jefferson worshipped and was buried here and is commemorated with a memorial plaque in the west end of the nave.
- James Keir a chemist and also part of the Lunar Society was married here in 1770.
- John Baskerville, the well-known printer and associate of the Lunar Society was a one time church warden at St Philips.
- The Birmingham Triennial was a musical festival held at St Philip's to raise money for a new hospital.
- Edward Burne-Jones was born close to St Philip's in 1833 and was baptised here in 1834. Burne-Jones Windows in Cathedral
- Samuel Lines topographic artist and founder member of the Birmingham Society of Artists is buried in the churchyard. His tomb is one of the listed monuments in the churchyard and faces the studio where he worked.

The Eighteenth century can be seen as the golden age in the production of monuments - mainly simple wall tablets and Greek revival motifs such as winged cherubs, urns, scrolls or coiled snakes.

C19th and C20th monuments also feature most notably an endearing and impressive memorial to an artist, Moses Haughton and the unusual First World War memorial to battalions from the Royal Warwickshire Regiments by A S Dixon installed in 1920.

There are memorials to all of the Bishops within the building including an impressive bronze portrait relief of Bishop Barnes and a floor tablet to Bishop Wilson. Wilson had been Bishop of Singapore at the time of the Japanese invasion during World War II and was held prisoner throughout the Japanese occupation.

The Cathedral

Built in 1715 as the new parish church "on the hill", St Philip's is a rare and fine example of elegant English Baroque architecture. It is Grade 1 listed and one of the oldest buildings in the city still used for its original purpose. Fascinating both inside and out, the cathedral is home to some remarkable treasures (not least the inspiring stained-glass windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones) and amazing stories, all set amongst the daily rhythm of people crisscrossing this unique part of the city.

Location

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2QB