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| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Panel 1/1819-20)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **HISTORY TEXT (200 max)**  **(Title: The birth of a new church)**  In 1819, the Vestry of St Augustine-the-Less declared that burials could no longer take place in the churchyard due to overcrowding. It consequently sought an alternative burial ground and bought a suitable space between Great George Street and Charlotte Street clearing away the shells of seven houses. The Bishop consecrated the ground alongside the sheriff and the Mayor on 9th August 1820.  Alongside the need for a new burial ground, the Vestry launched a petition for a new church seating 1,500 people as St Augustine-the-Less accommodated 6,500 parishioners in a church originally intended to host 750 seats.  With the upper classes moving beyond the city boundaries and therefore adding to the growth of the parish, the Vestry of St Augustine-the-less took the opportunity to apply for a grant as part of the new Church Building Commissioning programme. After a protracted battle over architectural design for the new church, a decision was finally made in 1820 to build a new Chapel-of-Ease next to the new burial ground. St George’s Brandon Hill was born! | **Title**  *Caption: Map of proposed site for the new church*  *Credit/Copyright: Church of England Archives*  **J:\HLF\Interpretation\Content\Theme Resources & Files\The Church\ECE-11-1-3030.jpg**  Title:  *Caption: Official notice suspension of burials at St Augustine*  *Credit: Bristol Archive*  High resolution scan requested |
| **MUSIC TEXT (200 max)**  1819/20 | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Panel 2/1876 - check)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **HISTORY TEXT (200 max)**  **(Title: A New Parish)**  With a growing population in Great George Street, Charlotte Street and Park Street the Vestry of St Augustine-the-less applied for the creation of a new parish. On 3rd August 1832, his Majesty King George III announced the division of the parish of St Augustine into two distinct parishes: St Augustine and St George Brandon Hill with St George’s becoming the parish church. The boundary was set to commence at the top of Park Street, separating it from the Parishes of Clifton and Jacob’s Wells, and continued alongside the floating harbour. Consequently, the new parish was characterised by great wealth in the upper parts and great poverty in the lower parts. The churchyard of St George’s itself continued to be used by St Augustine-the-less, so close links remained between the two parishes.  **J:\HLF\Interpretation\Content\Final Images\CHURCH\BMG M979 ©Bristol Museum, Galleries & Archives.tif**The first vicar for the new parish was Richard Gordon Bedford, originally from Crediton in Devon, and previously a chaplain at St Augustine-the-less. | **Title**  Caption: Boundary map Brandon Hill Parish  *Credit/Copyright: Bristol archives*  High resolution scan requested  *Caption: Floating harbour with St George’s church in the background*  *Credit/Copyright: Bristol Museum and Art Galleries*  *Caption: St Augustine-the-less*  *Source: Bristol Archives*  http://archives.bristol.gov.uk/GetImage.ashx?db=Catalog&type=default&fname=postcards_122_1.700x700.jpg |
| **MUSIC TEXT (200 max)**  1870s music | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Panel 3/1930)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **HISTORY TEXT (200 max)**  **(Title:Canon Gay – A vicar larger than life)**  Percival Gay was one of 15 children born to a very poor family. He began studying at the University of Bristol but only after one term, he was called up to serve in World War I. After the war, he continued his studies at Oxford and in 1924 he started his career as a parish priest, initially at Winterbourne and since 1930 at St George’s Brandon Hill.  During World War II he served as a Chaplain on the Royal Navy ship HMS Argus. After end of World II, he returned to St George’s repairing the damage the building and reuniting a disintegrated parish.  Canon Gay loved St George’s and his parish, also visible in his chaplaincies of over 30 organisations in Bristol. He famously said at the age of 80 “I will never retire, as soon as I do, they will close the church”.  Percy Gay was also a great entertainer often invited to city dinners for his witty graces and there was often humour in the church. Local stories tell us that Percy Gay famously addressed the congregation as his “audience” and he loved climbing through windows for dinner invitations as “it was much more fun to arrive in that way!”  He fought for his church and his parish until his death and albeit he could not prevent St George’s closure, his love for entertainment and his great appreciation for all humans would approve of St George’s as a music venue. | **Title**  Caption: Percival Gay  *Credit/Copyright: Courtesy of Harriett Gay*  **J:\HLF\Interpretation\Content\Theme Resources & Files\The Church\Percy Portrait 1.jpg** |
| **MUSIC TEXT (200 max)**  1930s music | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Panel 4/1984)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **TEXT (400 max)**   * **1960s (Threat of closure)**   On 11th April 1966, St George’s was declared unsafe due to structural issues with a wall and the roof. This lead to the closure of the church itself. Canon Gay launched the First Aid appeal to finance the restoration of the church wall and the repair of the roof. He sat in front of the church raising money from 10am to 8pm and finally managed to get the church re-opened on 25th July 1966. | **Title**  **Caption**  **Credit/Copyright**  **Newspaper?** |
| **HISTORY TEXT (200 max)**  **The closure of the church**  The parish of St George's Brandon Hill had long been suffering from a dwindling congregation. A year after Canon Gay’s death in 1975, BBC Radio 3 commenced broadcasting from St George’s alongside the daily activities as a parish church. Yet in 1981, St George's was informed of the closure of the church against which an appeal was launched in 1982. Lord Justice Scarman said during the final hearing: “To lose so fine a church would be a catastrophe. If it’s placed in the care of St George’s Music Trust, which has the funds and the will to use it as centre for music and drama, the loss will be averted.” On 8th March 1984, the battle was lost: St George's as a parish church was closed. The dismantling of the church began in May 1984. The church silver was transferred to a strong room at the National Westminster Bank at Queens Road in Bristol whilst the organ was sold to a private buyer for £1,500.00. Many other many items were donated to other churches in and around Bristol. | **Title**  *Caption: The Last Service*  *Credit/Copyright: St George’s Archive*  **J:\HLF\Interpretation\Content\Theme Resources & Files\The Church\Final service.jpg**  Caption: Newspaper article: A bitter flock – trying to find high resolution |
| **MUSIC TEXT (200 max)**  1980s music | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Touchscreen/Key Dates – 7 Pages)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  **A new burial ground**  On the 26th April in 1819, St Augustine's Parish informed the local community that burials could no longer take place in the churchyard. This was due to a state of overcrowding and therefore only burials in the vaults were accepted excluding the poor. A parish however, was required to provide burial ground for its parishioners. The Vestry therefore thought to buy new land for a burial ground and found a suitable site between Charlotte Street and Great George Street. The land contained seven empty shell of houses which had to be demolished. The site was finally consecrated in September 1823 by the Mayor and the Lord Bishop. | **Title**  Caption Etching St Augustine the less  *Credit/Copyright: St George’s Archive*  http://archives.bristol.gov.uk/GetImage.ashx?db=Catalog&type=default&fname=picbox_4_bch_17.700x700.jpg |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  On 28th September 1823 the Chapel-of-Ease as St George’s was known then was officially consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Dean Lord Somerset, the Reverend S. Seyer (Bishop’s chaplain), the Reverend H. Green (Chancellor) and Reverend J. Carter (Minister). In attendance were also the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff and churchwardens of the Parish St Augustine.  The Dean chose the Psalm 122 verse 1 for the prayer *“I was glad when they said onto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”*  highlighting the importance of the new church for as a place of worship for the poor.  The Vestry, the Dean and the Bishop celebrated afterwards in the Montague Tavern in Kingsdown which unfortunately did not survive World War II. | **Title**  Caption: St George’ Church by Samuel Jackson  **J:\HLF\Interpretation\Content\Final Images\CHURCH\M2552 Watercolour by Samuel Jackson ©Bristol Museum, Galleries & Archives.tif***Credit/Copyright Bristol Museum & Art Gallery* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  The new parish of St George’s Brandon Hill was characterised by a great difference in wealth. Great George Street, Berkeley Square, Park Street and Charlotte Street were occupied by either wealthy merchants who had benefited from Bristol’s overseas trade or by surgeons working in the Bristol Infirmary. The other parts of the parish, Limekiln Lane, Frogmore Street and Lamb Street were sites of great poverty. An analysis of the historic St George’s burial records have shown that the majority of burials in the churchyard were of people from Limekiln Lane with an average age of just 37! Limekiln Lane (today George Street) was historically the location of the Bristol Glass Works and was later the location for many general labourers. Our burial records have also shown that the parish was badly hit by the two most severe Cholera Epidemics of 1831 and 1848/49. In fact, a medical team visited the affected areas and reported that the parish of St George’s Brandon Hill had the most ‘appalling’ sanitary conditions. | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  **The closure of the burial ground**  In 1854, a new Act of Parliament was passed which prohibited the "burial of the dead in England in the metropolis" leading to a closure of inner city churchyards. At that time, infectious diseases such as cholera were spreading fast and it was believed that the burial of the dead next to the living was a major contributing factor. In Bristol, this lead to the closure of all inner-city graveyards, including St Augustine's, in 1854. St George's Brandon Hill was required to discontinue burying within 5 yards of the church or the house wall and only one body per grave was permitted. In 1861, St George's churchyard also faced the final closure and burials were no longer permitted. | **Title** |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  A war memorial cross dedicated to the lives lost in World War I was erected on 24th April 1921 in the churchyard of St. Georges, Brandon Hill and dedicated by the Dean of Bristol. The cross, which is of Clipham stone, bears the names of 74 men of the parish who gave their lives in the war, and has cost £165. The memorial service was taken by the Vicar, the Rev. G. W. Pitt, assisted by the Rev. F. T, Baker, and the lesson was read by Dr. E. H. Cook. The Dean gave an address based on the words, "And I, if I be lifted from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.'' (St. John xii., 32). The Dean emphasised that the cross was a symbol of sacrifice, therefore a fitting memorial to those of whom they were thinking that day. | **Title**  Caption Communion Card  *Credit/Copyright: St Georges*  *Archive* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**   * 1930-1975 (Canon Gay’s tenure)   Canon Gay commenced his 51-year career as a parish priest in 1824, initially at Winterbourne and since 1930 at St George’s Brandon Hill. He was very much involved in his local parish heading up over 30 organisations as a Chaplain including the Bristol Hippodrome, the Bristol Light Opera Company and the Bristol Amateur Operatic society. As a chaplain for the Hippodrome, he married a German couple who were part of an ensemble at St George’s in January 1939, just short of the outbreak of World War II. During his tenure, he regularly visited his local parish providing pastoral care in schools, hospitals, youth clubs and even two local theatres. He was very much a hands-on priest and loved by the local community. | **Title**  Caption Canon Gay in a ceremonial cloak  *Credit/Copyright Richard Davis, private photograph* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  **The final service was held on 29th April 1984 at St George's Brandon Hill. After the Sunday mass, the congregation was invited to a final supper at the Crypt.** Subsequently, the dismantling of the church began. Many items were donated to churches in Bristol such as All Hallows in Easton, St. Mary's Church in Fishponds and St Michael's on the Mount. Barbara Gay, the surviving widow of Canon Gay, was deeply upset about the closure of the church and wrote a final tribute: "We are all quite sure that one day St George’s will rise again, as beautiful as it once was, and that it will be rededicated and cleared again, for the worship of Almighty God, and countless church members will again, as in past days, praise their hearts and voices in heavenly praises. Please pray for this miracle to happen soon." | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Touchscreen/The Need for a New Church – 3 Pages )** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  **The need for a new church**  After the end of the Napoleonic War, the government’s main aim was to restore social order and increase industrial development. This drove the working classes into even greater poverty and people lost faith in the Church of England which was regarded as part of the establishment. Indeed, the primary function of the church was to maintain the social order and very few clergy believed in any other higher aims. Pews in the parish churches had to be rented leading to an even greater exclusion of the poor. As a consequence, Methodism (with its famous leader John Wesley) and other dissenting religious nominations attracted new followers. Even secularism was on the rise.  The growth of the parish St Augustine caused a significant shortage of suitable space for worshippers and when the government announced a new Church Building Programme in 1818, the Vestry applied for permission to build a new church next to the new burial ground. St Augustine-the-less received a grant of £11,000.00 to build the new Chapel-of-Ease on Brandon Hill.  During the consecration of the new church, the Dean emphasised that “it had been a subject of great regret and lamentation to the best friends of the poor, and the admirers of the established religion, that so little accommodation existed in parochial churches for the mass of the people, an evil which an increasing population daily added to. This evil is two-fold, it either drove the people to ignorance and barbarism, and of course debauchery, or drove them to secession.” | **Title**  Caption St Augustine the less  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  **Church in Georgian England**  Unlike today, in Georgian England everybody was presumed to be a member of the Church of England. As a result, parishioners who occupied land or a house in the Parish had to pay a church rate. This rate was used to pay for the upkeep of the church, the provision of a divine service and the salaries for the clergy connected with the church. In addition to the church rate, pews in a church had to be rented and were therefore reserved for the upper classes. The ‘poor’ either had to stand or sit on uncomfortable benches. The division between the rich and the poor was obvious in a Georgian church and the poor could be forgiven for not attending a service which supposedly was for their betterment.  The dissatisfaction with the Church of England and the poor provision of seating led to many people seeking alternative forms of religions such as Methodism or Quakerism, commonly known as dissenters. Non-conformist were the first to reject the payment of church rates. In 1836, a central committee was formed fighting for the abolition of church rates. In 1868, the Compulsory Church Rates Abolition Act was passed making church voluntary contributions instead of compulsory ones which had a significant impact on the finances of local parishes. | **Title**  Caption Alms Dish  *Credit/Copyright St George's Archive* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  **The threat of Methodism**  At St George’s Brandon Hill, a tent was erected three or four times a week where “a party of itinerant Methodists preached to a large multitude of people’. A plot next to burial ground had already been earmarked by Calvinistic Methodists for the purpose of erecting a chapel. In addition, a new chapel had been erected on the corner of Great George Street and Charlotte Street, later known as the Bethesda Chapel by Mr Cowan ‘who seceded from the Church of England’ and used by George Muller for preaching.  The Vestry of St Augustine-the-less was genuinely concerned that If they could not provide more or free seating for Church of England followers, those people might be tempted away to a ‘dissenting house’, i.e. a Methodist Church, threatening lower church attendance. | **Title**  Caption John Wesley preaching in front of a Parish Church  *Credit/Copyright: Wellcome Images V0006868* |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Touchscreen/The Mother Church – 1 Page)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **TEXT (400 max)**   * St Augustine The Less (Potted History, what, where, why etc)   The church of St Augustine-the-less was first mentioned in 1240 and was built for parishioners living around St Augustine Abbey. In 1480, the church was described to be in great disrepair and was therefore heavily restored by adding a west tower, a nave and a chancel. The church was restored again in 1840 when galleries in the aisles were removed and the north porch was re-built entirely. The church was damaged by air raids during World War II and subsequently closed. In July 1956 it was scheduled for demolition and in April 1966 declared to be unsafe which started the demolition process. The site remained vacant for 23 years before the extension to the Royal Hotel was built across the site of the church and the graveyard. | **Title**  Caption St Augustine the less  *Credit/Copyright*  **J:\HLF\Interpretation\Content\Theme Resources & Files\The Church\St Augustine The Less\2979 St Augustine The Less.jpg** |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Touchscreen/The Vicars of St George’s – 4 Pages)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  **List of incumbents**  1823-24 J. Carter (Curate of St Augustine-the-Less) 1825-1835 R. G. Bedford 1835-1844 J. J. Goodenough 1844-1871 Ralph Hopper 1871-1876 John Pilkington Norris 1876-1892 F. A. Lefroy 1893-1898 Arthur Dewing 1898-1899 Robert Lawson 1899-1905 Kean Pitt 1906-1929 George Pitt 1930-1975 Percival Gay | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  Norris was born in 1823 in Chester. He was educated in Rugby and subsequently gained a scholarship at Trinity College Cambridge. He was appointed as Canon to Bristol Cathedral in 1864 which he remained until his death in 1891.  He became vicar at St George's in 1870 and was a very energetic priest. Within a year of his appointment he had changed the interior of St George's significantly installing a new raised altar and reconstructing the chancel area. | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  Canon Pitt received an M.A. Pembroke College, Cambridge and was trained at Wells Theological College. He was ordained deacon in 1895 and a priest 1896. From 1895 to 1905 he was curate of St. Augustine's (Cathedral Parish), Bristol and Chaplain to the Bristol Female Penitentiary from 1907 to 1912. He was a vicar at St. George's, Brandon Hill, from 1905 to 1929. | **Title**  Caption  *Credit/Copyright*  Pitt Portrait? |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Touchscreen/St George’s at War – 3 Pages)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  In September 1939, St George’s Brandon Hill was informed by Bristol Town Council that the crypt was now under possession of the council as an air raid shelter. Subsequently, the St George’s crypt was used between 1939 and 1945 as a shelter during World War II. A second shelter for the local area was established at Brandon Hill. | **Title**  Caption: Air Raid Shelter Brandon Hill  *Newspaper image © Bristol Post September 1939. All rights reserved. With thanks to The British Newspaper Archive* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  On 24th November 1940 Bristol experienced its first Blitz. The raid lasted for six hours and destroyed historic buildings and a quarter of the medieval city. Most of Park Street and the Triangle were also destroyed. Although St George's was hit by a bomb, it miraculously escaped serious damage. The star in the ceiling in the main hall is a reminder of the bomb which hit the church. Unfortunately, the mother church St Augustine-the-less was less lucky and severely damaged during the bombings, so that it had to be closed.  Three more bombings of Bristol followed on the 2nd December 1940, 3rd January 1941 and the 16th March 1941 targeting the council house, the docks and the surrounding areas of St George, Easton, Eastville and Fishponds. | **Title**  Caption Star in the ceiling marking incendiary bomb hitting St George's  *Credit/Copyright St George's Archive* |
| **TEXT (400 max)**  Park Street was one of the worst hit areas of the Blitz on 24th November 1940. Whilst the majority of the buildings on Park Street were destroyed, miraculously Mr Chilcott's business, a jeweller, was still standing. The building however was damaged and vulnerable to looting. Hence, a worried Mr Chilcott gathered the most valuable possessions, went to St George's churchyard and buried his treasures. The following day he recovered his 'loot' from the graveyard. | **Title**  Caption Park Street War Damage 1941  *Credit/Copyright: Facey Photographs Bristol Archives* |
| **Item: Item B – The Church timeline installation (Canon Gay Audio – 1 Page)** | |
| **Main copy** | **Images, captions, credits & copyright details** |
| **TEXT/TRANSCRIPT (400 max)**  *“Secondly, surely no man was more appropriately surnamed, for laughter and good humour were of the greatest importance to him. His fund of stories was inexhaustible, and he was that very rare raconteur – able on occasion to produce a risqué story, where humour dominated so completely that the most puritanical could not conceivably have been offended. He was always in great demand at city dinners, not merely as a speaker but as the creator of witty graces and benedictions, and if the company failed to say “Amen” loudly enough, he would start all over again. And there was usually humour in church and frequently the totally unexpected.”*  **AUDIO**  Extract from Percy Gay’s funeral address, written/read by Harry Edwards, performed by David Collins | **Title**  Canon Gay Eulogy  *St George's Archive* |