

Did you know that a spire once adorned the chapels at St. James Cemetery?



St. James Cemetery in Bath, also known as Widcombe, Lyncombe & St James Cemetery, opened in 1861 and was the fourth burial ground for the wards of Lyncombe and Widcombe, and second for the ward of St. James.

The entrance gate and ornate archway on the Lower Bristol Road, adjoins the Lodge, which is now a private residence.



The cemetery is divided into consecrated and non-consecrated areas, which was customary practice at that time, and each had their own chapel.

The delicate design of the needle-thin spire formed the centre piece between the Anglican and Non-Conformist chapels and were designed by Charles E. Davies and built between 1860 – 1861.

During WWII air-raids on the night of 25th April 1942, high explosive bombs fell on the cemetery, particularly the north-western area disturbing burials and destroying many memorials. Evidence of the destruction can still be seen to this day.



Records suggest the spire survived the catastrophic damage caused by the WWII Baedeker air-raids, however thirty-six years later in 1978 the spire sadly succumbed to corrosion from the elements and was dismantled for safety reasons.



Today, St. James Cemetery offers a peaceful and historic resting place, surrounded by architectural beauty and natural tranquillity. Now at full capacity with over 24,000 burials, St. James Cemetery is closed for burials in new graves, however it may be possible to inter cremated remains in an existing family grave, if rights of ownership are valid with a living owner.