

Understanding the Bristolian politics of Edward Colston

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This comes [from Bristol Live](#) in 2017:

The annual service to give thanks for Bristol slave trader Edward Colston has not taken place for the first time in centuries, after the church which usually hosts it refused to this year.

The Thanksgiving Service is held on or around the birthday of Edward Colston in mid-November, and was due to take place on Monday at St Stephen's Church in the heart of the Old City.

The day has traditionally included a procession from the statue of Edward Colston, which stands in The Centre, and until recently also included a visit to 'pay homage' to Colston's own crypt in the former All Saints Church.

The commemoration day began in around 1720, has had a similar format for around 100 years, and has traditionally included a procession in top hat and tails.



 The Colston Day Procession in 2007

It sees the members of three society charities – named Anchor, Grateful and Dolphin after things associated with Edward Colston – come together for a service of thanksgiving and to commemorate the man whose [slave ships transported hundreds of thousands of people](#) by force from Africa to the Americas – including tens of thousands of men, women and children who died en route.

The white, male, decidedly privileged, elite.

These were the people who were really tipped into Bristol harbour yesterday.

Them, and their political friends.

No wonder the government is annoyed.

And staggering that this happened so recently.