



Gaia at Truro Cathedral - Frequently Asked Questions

This document has been designed to answer any questions you might have related to:

- [Gaia General Visiting](#)
- [Gaia Relaxed Viewing Sessions](#)
- [Gaia By Night Events](#)
- [Celestial Heights Tours](#)
- [School Visits to Gaia](#)

Gaia General Visiting

Do I have to book tickets to see Gaia?

There is no need to book to see Gaia during General Visiting times.

Tickets are required for anyone wishing to attend a Gaia By Night event and/or undertake a Celestial Heights Tour (see below).

What are the General Visiting times?

Visiting hours are, for the most part, Monday-Saturday 10:00-17:00 and Sundays 11:30-15:30. However please [check specific opening hours](#) for the day you intend to visit on our events page - some days have non-standard visiting times due to other events and activities taking place.

How much does it cost to see Gaia?

There will be no charge for entry to see Gaia at Truro Cathedral during General Visiting hours, with donations of £5/adult encouraged. Your donation enables the cathedral to bring events such as Gaia to the community of Cornwall as well as care for the historic building.

Will I have to queue?

It is anticipated that lots of people will want to come to see Gaia whilst it is at Truro Cathedral, therefore you may experience some queuing. A queuing system will be in place at peak times and the cathedral team will work to ensure visitor flow is as smooth as possible.

Do you have a Café?

Yes, we have the Common Grounds Café by the entrance to the cathedral. This will be open and serving a delicious selection of drinks, cakes and light lunches during General Visiting hours. There will be some additional café seating located close to Gaia in the cathedral so you can enjoy your refreshments whilst also enjoying the installation.

Do you have toilets?

Yes, the toilets, including an accessible toilet, are located near the Chapter House.

Do you have wheelchair access?

There is ramp access at the front of the cathedral in High Cross near the front entrance. Nearly all parts of the cathedral are accessible by ramp, but St Mary's aisle is not accessible by wheelchair. There is a wheelchair available for use by the ramp entrance. Steward assistance is available where possible.

Where can I park?

There are several public car parks close to Truro Cathedral. We encourage visitors to walk or use public transport where possible. You can find a map and directions to Truro Cathedral [here](#).

How can I bring a group?

If you plan to bring a school or uniformed group, please visit our dedicated [Gaia School Visits page](#) for further information. For anyone wishing to bring a general group of 10 or more people, please email the details of your request, including details of your preferred date, time and number of attendees to info@trurocathedral.org.uk. A member of the cathedral team will review your request and come back to you.

Why is Truro Cathedral displaying Gaia?

In recent years, Truro Cathedral has underlined its commitment to expand its offering of exciting events for the community of Cornwall, and so engage and welcome new audiences. This presentation of Gaia is one example of that commitment in action.

Is it appropriate to display artwork like this in a building that exists for Christian worship?

Truro Cathedral was built by the people of Cornwall, for all people. It is a community space that warmly welcomes everyone – regardless of faith. Gaia is not only a spectacular artwork to behold but conveys important messages about the importance of caring for our planet. A planet that we all live on, together. Expanding further on this, Father Simon Robinson, Dean of Truro, said, "In 2009 the Anglican Consultative Council developed 'The Five Marks of Mission' for the worldwide Anglican church. The fifth Mark of Mission commits the church *'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'* In an era where we see and live with the devastating impact of human activity on the earth, having Gaia in this sacred place reminds us, indeed challenges us to consider our God-given responsibilities towards creation. The third Mark of Mission commits the church *'To respond to human need by loving service.'* At a time of climate crisis, it is the poorest nations of the world who suffer the most. Being able to experience this stunning representation of the whole of the world, the common ground upon which we all live, can and should compel us to understand further our global relationships, our worldwide community and reflect carefully upon our responsibilities to those who are impacted most by the emerging and troubling situation that humanity faces."

Gaia Relaxed Viewing Sessions**What is a Relaxed Viewing Session?**

Gaia Relaxed Viewing Sessions are designed to be neurodiversity-friendly and offer a more accessible, quieter viewing experience. During these times, the permitted number of visitors will be reduced, the soundtrack accompanying Gaia will be played at a lower volume, and visitors will be asked, where possible, to keep noise levels low.

When are the Relaxed Viewing Sessions taking place?

The Relaxed Viewing Sessions will take place from 15:00-16:00 on Wednesday 11th October, Tuesday 17th and Tuesday 24th October. See details [here](#).

Do I have to book tickets to attend a Relaxed Viewing Session?

There is no ticketing and no need to book to attend the Relaxed Viewing Sessions, however, please be aware some queuing may be required due to the reduced capacity.

How much does it cost to attend a Relaxed Viewing Session?

There will be no charge for entry to see Gaia at Truro Cathedral during Relaxed Viewing Sessions, with donations of £5/adult encouraged. Your donation enables the cathedral to bring events such as Gaia to the community of Cornwall as well as care for the historic building.

Gaia By Night

What is Gaia By Night?

Gaia By Night are dedicated, ticketed evening sessions that provide you with the chance to experience the full illumination effect of Gaia against the darker evening atmosphere in the cathedral.

When are the Gaia By Night sessions happening?

The dates and times of all Gaia By Night sessions can be [viewed here](#).

How much is a ticket for Gaia By Night?

Tickets are £6.50 per person (free for under 11s), with all funds raised directly supporting the care and upkeep of Truro Cathedral.

Where can I buy tickets for Gaia By Night?

Tickets are available to book for each session via the Truro Cathedral website. Just [click here](#), select your chosen date and follow the instructions.

Celestial Heights Tours ([see below](#)) will be running during Gaia By Night events. These offer the chance for you to ascend to the High-Level Gallery and view Gaia from above. Tickets for tours running on Gaia By Night events are £19.00 – this covers both your Celestial Heights Tour (£12.50) and your Gaia By Night admission fee (£6.50), so if you are booking onto a Celestial Heights Tour, there is no need to book a separate Gaia By Night ticket. [Click here](#) to find out more about Celestial Heights Tours.

Can I get Gaia By Night tickets on the door?

If any slots for a session remain, tickets may be available at the door, however, this cannot be guaranteed so we recommend that you book in advance wherever possible.

Do I have to book Gaia By Night tickets for Under 11s?

Yes, please. Although entry is free for anyone under the age of 11, please ensure to book 'FREE Under 11' tickets for all those attending with you who qualify. This will assist the cathedral in managing visitor numbers and flow – thank you.

How will I receive my Gaia By Night tickets?

You will not be sent 'tickets' as such - your order receipt/confirmation of booking acts as your ticket(s). Please ensure you have access to your booking confirmation number when you attend.

Do I need to print my Gaia By Night order receipt/confirmation?

If you can access your booking confirmation on your phone or mobile device when visiting, there is no need to print your order receipt/confirmation.

How long is a Gaia By Night experience?

To ensure an enjoyable experience for all those attending Gaia By Night, each timed ticket slot lasts for 1-hour.

What time do I need to arrive?

To ensure the best viewing experience for all Gaia By Night visitors, please be advised last entry for any slot booked will be 15 minutes prior to the booked hour ending (e.g. last admission for an 18:30-19:30 slot will be 19:15), therefore, please ensure to arrive in plenty of time. Early admittance is not permitted.

What happens if I'm running late for my time slot?

All Gaia By Night tickets will come with a 1-hour timeslot. You can arrive at any point during the first 45 minutes of your timeslot (see above). We will do our best to accommodate latecomers where possible, but this is not guaranteed.

Can I change the date and time of my Gaia By Night ticket?

Ticket dates and times cannot be altered once purchased.

Can I have a refund if I am no longer able to attend?

We are unable to offer refunds for Gaia By Night events.

What happens if the timeslot I want is sold out?

Truro Cathedral is holding eleven Gaia By Night events. If the slot you want is sold out, we advise you to [check availability on the other dates/times](#). We may release additional tickets later - these will be announced in our e-newsletter and on our social media channels. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) or sign up to receive Gaia [email updates here](#).

Celestial Heights Tours

What is a Celestial Heights Tour?

Celestial Heights Tours are 30-minute guided tours during which you ascend a small stone spiral staircase before walking through the cathedral roof space to arrive at the High-Level Gallery. From here you can gaze down upon Gaia - a perfect viewing spot to appreciate the Northern Hemisphere!

How big is each Celestial Heights Tour group?

Very small - there will be a maximum of five spaces available on each tour. Each tour will be led by a guide and accompanied by two further safety stewards.

I would like to go on a Celestial Heights Tour – what do I need to do?

Simply select the date you would like to join a tour, click to book tickets and then follow the instructions. Please note that Celestial Heights Tours will not run every day. [Click here](#) to view the dates/times the tours are taking place and to book your place.

When are the Celestial Heights Tours happening?

The dates and times of all Celestial Heights Tour sessions can be [viewed here](#).

How much is a Celestial Heights Tour ticket?

Tickets for tours running during General Visiting times are £12.50 per person. Tickets for tours running on Gaia By Night events are £19.00 – this covers both your Celestial Heights Tour (£12.50) and your Gaia By Night admission fee (£6.50). All funds raised will directly support the care and upkeep of Truro Cathedral. Unfortunately, this tour is not suitable for anyone under the age of 11, and under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.

Where can I buy Celestial Heights Tour tickets?

Tickets are available to book for each session via the Truro Cathedral website. Just [click here](#), select your chosen date, and follow the instructions.

I'm coming to a Gaia By Night event - can I book onto a Celestial Heights Tour on the night?

Tickets may be available at the door if any tour slots remain, however, this cannot be guaranteed so we recommend that you book in advance wherever possible.

How will I receive my Celestial Heights Tour tickets?

You will not be sent 'tickets' as such - your order receipt/confirmation of booking acts as your ticket(s). Please ensure you have access to your booking confirmation number when you attend.

Do I need to print my Celestial Heights Tour order receipt/confirmation?

If you can access your booking confirmation on your phone or mobile device when visiting, there is no need to print your order receipt/confirmation.

How does each tour last?

Each tour lasts for approximately ½ hour. This provides enough time to gently ascend to the High Level Gallery, time to appreciate the view and take photographs, and then make our way back down.

What time do I need to arrive?

Please ensure to be at the Celestial Heights Tour departure point 10 minutes prior to the start of your tour. This allows you to meet your guides, listen to a short safety briefing and sign the safety waiver.

What happens if I'm running late?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate latecomers on the tours due to safety reasons. If there are spare slots on a later tour on the same day, we will do our best to move your booking over but this cannot be guaranteed.

What does the tour involve?

Each tour is facilitated by a guide who will lead the group up the enclosed spiral staircase to the cathedral roof space. The stairway is steep and narrow, reducing (to 54cm wide) as you ascend the 101 steps. At the top of the stairway is a short and narrow (45cm wide x 195cm height)

corridor leading to the walkway through the Western roof void. The roof void is traversed by a wooden gangway, which has handrails. You will pass through two voids before arriving over the Crossing. From here you will be able to look down and see the Northern Hemisphere of Gaia. There is a balcony area which you can see over and through. Caution is to be taken when viewing, moving around the rigging and other trip hazards which exist in this space. The group will stay at the Crossing for between 5 & 10 minutes before descending back to ground level. The guide will be accompanied by two safety stewards on each tour.

Are there any restrictions on who can go on a tour?

Due to the physical and safety elements of this tour, there are several restrictions:

- This tour is unsuitable for anyone who has any condition or difficulties arising from exertion or any mobility difficulty.
- The minimum age for anyone undertaking a tour is 11. Anyone aged under 18 must be accompanied by a consenting parent or guardian.
- There are several areas with low ceiling levels. Caution must be undertaken. Safety helmets will be available.
- Flat (sensible) footwear must be worn.
- Participation in the tour will require tour participants to listen to a safety briefing and complete a waiver prior to the start of the tour.

Can my child attend the tour whilst I wait at the bottom?

Unfortunately, this tour is not suitable for anyone under the age of 11, and under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.

Can I change the date and time of my Celestial Heights Tour once booked?

Tour dates and times cannot be altered once purchased.

Can I have a refund if I am no longer able to attend?

We are unable to offer refunds for Celestial Heights Tours.

What happens if the tour I want is sold out?

Truro Cathedral is offering Celestial Heights Tours on 13 dates in total. If the slot you want is sold out we advise you to [check availability on other dates/times](#). We may release additional tickets later - these will be announced in our e-newsletter and on our social media channels. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) or sign up to receive Gaia [email updates here](#).

School Visits to Gaia

Can schools bring groups to see Gaia?

During the installation, schools are invited to bring students to see Gaia by booking either a Guided or Self-Guided School Visit. These will take place at set times from Monday 9 October to Friday 20 October 2023. Slots are limited so be sure to book early to avoid disappointment. Guided visits for a maximum of 60 students plus accompanying staff will run from 10:00-14:00 and be led by an experienced guide from our Learning Team. Self-Guided visits for a maximum of 30 students (or 1 class group) last up to 2 hours and can be booked between 12:00 and 14:00.

How much do school visits cost?

Guided Visits cost £200.00 per group, Self-Guided Visits cost £40.00 per class.

What is included in a Guided School Visit?

A 2-hour guided workshop underneath and around Gaia covering the following:

- Key Stages 1 and 2
Thinking and discussing what it means to live in an amazing world and the responsibilities that this suggests if we are to care for it well. This workshop content links to Units 1.2, 1.9, L2.1, L2.12, U2.2, U2.1, U2.4 of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for RE and Units 1.8, L2.11, U2.12 of CK4RE.
- Key Stage 3
What does it mean to have a green lifestyle and why is it important?
What is climate justice and why should it matter to us?
What can we do to care for the environment?
This workshop content links to Units 3.2, 3.7, 3.14, 3.17 and 3.18 of the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for RE and Unit 3.18 of CK4RE.
- A dedicated space to enjoy a packed lunch (note lunch is not provided) and for the creation of artworks will be made available.
- The workshop will include time to create artworks in response to Gaia (some of these will be included in a subsequent display at the cathedral). Basic art materials will be provided.

How do I book a Guided or Self-Guided school visit?

Please email info@trurocathedral.org.uk with your school's name, number of students and year group(s), whether you want to book a Guided or Self-Guided Visit, and your preferred dates.

Where can I find more information on school visits to Gaia?

The cathedral has a dedicated webpage containing further information on school visits: <https://www.trurocathedral.org.uk/gaia/school-visits>