



Mars: War and Peace

Questions and Answers

What is Mars: War and Peace?

Mars was named by the ancient Romans for their god of war because its reddish colour was reminiscent of blood. Accompanying the Mars sculpture is a newly created sound composition by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award winning composer Dan Jones. Featuring the sounds of seas, deserts and clips from NASA missions to Mars, it also incorporates the sounds of distant bombing and people marching, as if to war

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the artwork features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Martian surface. At around one million times smaller than the actual planet, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 10 kilometres of the surface of Mars.

The artwork allows us to view Mars from the air, as though we are a satellite mapping and studying the surface in perfect detail. Every valley, crater, volcano and mountain are laid bare for us to inspect.

When can I see Mars: War and Peace at Truro Cathedral?

Visitors will be able to experience Mars during general opening hours from 13th October to 2nd November 2025. There will also be a range of ticketed events and activities accompanying the installation for people to enjoy.

We recommend checking the general visiting times for the day you plan to visit before you set off. General visiting times for the exhibition will be confirmed and uploaded to the cathedral website. www.trurocathedral.org.uk

To keep up to date with the activities and events during its stay at the cathedral you can sign up to our [mailing list](#).

How much will it cost to see Mars: War and Peace?

Truro Cathedral does not charge entry and visitors coming to see Mars during general opening hours will continue to be welcomed for free, with donations encouraged to enable the cathedral to continue to bring events such as Mars for the community of Cornwall.

There will also be a range of charged ticketed events and activities taking place during the installation.

We recommend checking the general visiting times for the day you plan to visit before you set off.

Why is Truro Cathedral displaying Mars: War and Peace?

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. Following on from exhibiting Gaia in October 2023, this exhibition is further demonstration to that commitment.

Is it appropriate to display artwork like this in a Christian place / a building that exists for 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. Mars is not only a spectacular artwork where visitors will feel transported to the inhospitable desert wasteland of Mars, but it also reflecting on the realities of war for ordinary communities of people on our planet. The surround sound music connects the sculpture with the space and architecture around it. The sound fills a room and

creates an atmosphere and ambience, shaping and guiding interpretation of the sculpture.

The Dean of Truro, Rev'd Simon Robinson says, "It is exciting to welcome another first to Cornwall's great cathedral, here in Truro. Art is meant to inspire thought and emotion, and I pray that hosting Mars inspires you to think about the planets, the universe and creation and our part in the world today. The theme of Luke Jerram's vast artwork is War and Peace. We only have to turn to the daily news to see that the world is riven with war and violence and that in every situation around the world, innocent men, women, and children suffer. As a Christian, I believe that God's heart desires peace, for us to live in harmony with each other, whoever we are and whatever we believe. Contemplating this artwork with this in mind, knowing that as we stand under it, there is conflict somewhere in the world, is an opportunity to remember that humanity fails and also that peace is possible."