

# Goddess Temple News

Beltane 2018

Donations Welcome



*The Goddess Temple,  
2-4 High Street,  
Glastonbury, BA6 9DU  
[www.goddesstemple.co.uk](http://www.goddesstemple.co.uk)*

**B**eltane! Joyous celebration of life, as the wheel turns and the landscape opens in beauty to the presence of Great Goddess Rhiannon. She shows Herself in blossom, rising sap, dancing people, greening trees and singing birds. She has come, riding into the land and into our dreamed reality: Mistress of the Labyrinth and Gatekeeper of the Mysteries, the Land sings Her praises and we adore Her. Walking at this time in the landscape of Avalon, as elsewhere in Her nature, we can experience Her closeness. In the love songs of the birds that sing Her magic, in the exuberant sky dance of swallow and swifts returning home to us from far away shores. In the sweet scented blossom perfuming the wind, in the fiery caress of the sun warming our bodies and the awakening earth: oh She is here, She kisses us, and everything changes.

Amongst the Beltane celebrations of people and springtime flowers, we can imagine Her radiant Love touching us. Through the love light in the eyes of friends and lovers dancing around the Beltane fire,

we feel Her. Through the hawthorn blooms, the bluebells and cowslip flowers shining beneath the liquid green of new leaves, She is opening our senses and softening our being into realizing our intimate non-separation from Her. Allow Her to speak to you so sweetly, allow Her scent to intoxicate you, allow Her touch to delight you and allow Her delicate taste of love to bring a smile to your body and heart.

Rhiannon, radiant Great Goddess, is always present through the softening into greater aliveness of our senses, through the wisdom living in the heart that loves.

Sometimes however, despite the beauty of our awakening land, it is hard to feel connection to Goddess and allow our heart to soften and open to Her ever-present love.

As I write this (in early March), there is snow melting on the ground and spring, let alone Rhiannon's celebration of the fertile dance of life, still feels a long time away. So how can we stay connected to Her? Especially at times when the seasons of our personal life, or the season of the land, make it more challenging to experience Her immanent and immediate presence.

Like the frozen earth melting open to the sunrises' gift of new life energy, we have to find ways to open to trust, to remember and make alive our connection to Her. We can do this by surrounding our self with Her images and through committing to personal practices. By making ceremony for Her and for yourself; small acts of loving kindness, small daily rituals of self care and honouring will help remind us of the fact that we are all held by Her, guided into the unfolding of our soul's journey. Visualize Her before you fall asleep and rest in Her blessings. Give thanks for all Her gifts in your life first thing in the morning, to remember how fortunate we are to be alive on Her sacred Earth here and now.

It can be difficult to imagine Her with us when we struggle to make sense of life. At times like that, coming to Her temple here in Avalon is wonderful medicine. As the colours and images of the Avalonian Goddess wheel change with the seasons in Her temple, we can feel held both in



Artwork by Elaine Morgan

times of joyous celebration and times of loss and aloneness. Here, now, Rhiannon's Red fills the Temple space as a safe womb of life nurturing our fear and wounding into wholeness, while allowing our shining empowerment to rise with Her tender encouragement.

Come and visit us! Come and celebrate with us, come and be held in Her love and healing. Allow Rhiannon's radiance to enter deeply into all the places that are afraid, sad or angry, and receive Her sweet balm of Love. Let Her inspire you to shine more freely and to bring the beauty of Her ways further out into your own life and into the world around you.

We look forward to welcoming you in the Goddess Temple of Avalon and send you Rhiannon's Blessings of joyful belonging, clear intention and all embracing love.

*By Katinka Soetens  
Priestess of Rhiannon and of Avalon  
Director of the Magdalene Mystery School  
Priestess of Rhiannon; Sacred sexual  
Priestess of Love training  
[www.herpathoflove.com](http://www.herpathoflove.com)*

# Tales from the Summerlands Wonder and Paradox

by Geraldine Charles

*I want to be young in wonder again,  
To hold a single seed to the sky and marvel  
that it owns the energy of a star  
Rose Flint, Prayer to Live with Paradox.<sup>1</sup>*

Is it cheating to include this as a tale from the Summerlands? Perhaps, but I want to celebrate something I often take for granted: the opportunity for an endless “summer”; a life of delight, discovery and exploration. I rejoice that Goddess requires no strict rules of belief, imposes no dogma, burns no heretics.

No article of faith enforces an assumption that, for example, the world was created in October 4004 BCE as Bishop James Ussher calculated by adding up the ages of the Old Testament Patriarchs, while just seventeen years earlier in 1633 Galileo was convicted of heresy by the Catholic Church for supporting the theory that the Sun, not Earth, is the centre of the Solar System, which went against official doctrine.

Any smile at such ideas fades when we recall that even without rummaging through history’s wastebasket we can find similar beliefs right now, and it’s interesting to note that Ussher’s work is today used to support Young Earth Creationism, most of the supporters of which believe that the creation narrative in the Book of Genesis is to be interpreted literally.

I’m free to peer through the microscope and the telescope, to enquire into the beginnings of Earth’s igneous and metamorphic bones, to muse on the nature of black holes, those collapsed giant stars without which none of us would be here today, for without the heavier elements created in their explosive ends as supernovae life as we understand it wouldn’t be possible.

Free to wonder at evolution; at how tiny changes can multiply and differentiate into the incredible variety of living things on our own planet alone; who knows what we may find elsewhere in the universe? And free to speculate about billions of years of unfolding creation, in the wonders of planet Earth, Her plants and creatures, Her oceans, rivers, deserts and mountains. Free personally to dismiss the idea that all this fascinating and joyful diversity was created not by a jealous and frankly dodgy deity but by a Goddess who is far more interesting – and yet paradoxical, for despite Her immanence, Her presence in every seed and every star and even in me She is also unknowable, transcendent, creator of a universe that sprang into being from – apparently – nothing at all some 13.8 billion years ago. Ask where the “Big Bang” occurred and the answer is “right where you are now”.

Einstein wrote: “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind”. Substitute the word “spirituality” for “religion” and I have the tiniest dawning of an understanding – our minds can encompass matter and of course data, information, is simply a form of matter, while spirit is neither – and what a dull and mechanistic place the universe would be without it!

But what was the driving force, the motive behind the mystery of creation? The only answer I can come up with is Love – or more specifically, *Eros*, often thought to mean just sexual desire – but how, without that, would much of life recreate itself, and would it even matter if consciousness and spirituality were absent?

*Eros* is more than an idea, for according to the Orphic Creation Myths (in which he was more often known as Protogonus, or “First Born”) *Eros* was hatched from the World Egg and without him no other deities could exist. Interesting that many modern depictions of the Universe show it as pretty much egg-shaped!

As far as I know, however, no ancient philosopher seems to have adequately tackled the question begged by that Cosmic Egg – precisely where did that come from? Who laid the egg?

Consciousness is sometimes a mixed blessing, and it is hard to be celebratory when seeing how much of our world has been damaged and destroyed by us. Are we just a blot on the landscape? But if we assume the consciousness of beauty and wonder to belong only to humans (which is by no means certain) then who would be here to adore the creation of Goddess, and could beauty and wonder even exist as concepts? Could this mean that there is hope for us, despite our seemingly being bent on self-destruction?

Imagine two scenarios: in the first, a group of pre-humans is in trouble. Driven away from their source of water by another band, something makes one of their number suddenly conceive the idea of a weapon; a missile. He throws a bone into the air, where it becomes a spacecraft.

In the second scenario, which is based on a true story, a bonobo chimpanzee named Kuni saw a starling fall to the ground, hurt. Kuni picked up the bird and climbed to the very top of the highest tree around. She swayed dangerously in the breeze but held on tight with her feet, opened up the bird’s wings and tossed it into the air. The starling flapped a little, but fell again. Kuni descended from the tree and stood guard over the bird, allowing no other bonobo to approach, until finally the starling recovered and flew away.<sup>2</sup>

You may well recognise the first scenario from the 1968 movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*<sup>3</sup> where the bone thrown into the air becomes the spacecraft *Discovery One*. Even when I first saw the film, half a century ago, I was disappointed to see all our technological know-how assumed to derive from a weapon.

Together with the more aggressive chimps (*pan troglodytes*), kindly bonobos (*pan paniscus*) are our closest relatives and both creatures are thought by some to share a common ancestor with humanity, while Jeremy Griffith, an evolutionary biologist, has suggested that the bonobo may even be a living example of our distant human ancestors.<sup>4</sup> More recent research suggests that altruism may be one of the driving forces of evolution,<sup>5</sup> so maybe it’s time to remake the 50-year-old movie. Which scenario shall we use as the new movie’s first scene? I know which I’d choose.

1. Rose Flint, *Prayer to Live with Paradox*, in “Mother of Pearl”, PS Avalon, 2008. You can also read it here: <https://www.goddess-pages.co.uk/prayer-to-live-with-paradox-2/>
2. <http://emerald.tufts.edu/alumni/magazine/winter2011/features/kindness.html> accessed 18/3/18
3. *2001: A Space Odyssey*, MGM, Stanley Kubrik Productions, 1968
4. Jeremy Griffith, *The End of the Human Condition*, WTM Publishing and Communications, 2016
5. Frans B.M. de Waal, *Putting the Altruism Back into Altruism: The Evolution of Empathy*, in “The Annual Review of Psychology”, 2007



# Moving towards Motherworld

by Katrin Knuepfer

"I know we will create a society where there are no rich or poor, no people without work or beauty in their lives, where money itself will disappear, where we shall all be brothers and sisters, where everyone will have enough." Sylvia Pankhurst

Last autumn a group of local Glastonbury women, started meeting up every fortnight at Goddess House. We are exploring visions, exchanging ideas and dreaming together a future form of society in which mothers and the values of mothering are placed in the centre. The values of mothering like love, care, support, sharing wealth, diversity, equal rights and sustainability are the foundation of a new form of society – Motherworld. This Vision of Motherworld is inspired by the Lady of Avalon, Great Goddess of love, compassion, healing and transformation on the Sacred Isle of Avalon. The initial Motherworld vision was grounded and activated ceremonially at the 2013 Glastonbury Goddess Conference.

After our first meetings and our beginning enthusiasm, I started doubting that Motherworld could be actualized. I felt overwhelmed by the complexity, not knowing where and how to start. Always coming back to define what we actually want.

At the same time, I started to organise the nearly weekly 'Explore Feminism Talks' in Goddess House. The talks cover own personal stories of how feminism was and is part of community members' lives, and women and men share their wisdom and visions in an open discussion. We also have educative talks about feminist-related topics. We have had Finn Mackay, the author of the book 'Radical Feminism', come to give a talk. The talks remind me weekly that every revolution starts as a little voice calling out for change. By speaking it out loud it creates echoes from other places and together our voices are getting louder and more powerful very quickly until finally change is happening.

More happened all over the world in the last months, most prominently the #metoo campaign in which millions of women found their voice to state that they are survivors of violence and abuse. This shows everyone that this is not a problem of a minority of women. On the contrary nearly every woman is facing discrimination and the majority have been abused in some form. A big group of us from Glastonbury have just taken part in the Million Women Rising march in London, carrying the Motherworld banner amongst thousands of women reclaiming back their power and right to be safe – what a powerful experience.

On an environmental level a new broader awakening is happening. For example, the plastic debate was recently empowered by David Attenborough's *Blue Planet* documentary about the plastic pollution in the oceans, which reached out to so many people. Politicians are now making it a priority on their agenda to change the amount of plastics being used.

The world we are living in right now is pure capitalism and governed by money which accumulates most rapidly through corruption and racketeering. Donald Trump currently makes it more obvious than anyone before that politics are based on economical profit for the elite.

Anyway, in so many more aspects of our live, if it is health, education or working environment, shifts are happening more publicly, obviously and rapidly. For me it feels like a big wave of acknowledging, sharing and uniting. This is starting to create an atmosphere of hope and willingness for activism. The urge for improved living conditions is becoming a motivation to act for so many people in the world.

After years of frustration about the current situation of our planet, Mother Earth, I finally found in the Motherworld Movement a possibility to transform this energy of anger and rage into activism, by sitting in circle and getting clearer visions about how a nurturing

and harmonic future can look like and finding ways of getting there. Although it is just a beginning and so much is still very unclear, I already feel the nurturing through sharing this beautiful vision of our future.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." Abraham Lincoln

I believe in Motherworld, although I can't tell you exactly what this will look like nor how to get there, I am excited to dream it together with my sisters and brothers. These are my commitments towards change:

I am willing to change myself and my behaviours.  
I am willing to explore and embrace my shadows.  
I am willing to fall and get up again.  
I am willing to support others on the path with compassion and love.  
I am willing to be criticised and challenged and find the gift in it.  
I am willing to speak up and defend my truth.  
I am willing to try all that is needed!

The most powerful source to achieve change lies in unity between people. The Standing Rock protest in the USA is a recent example of tribes and groups, individuals and communities coming together, uniting to reach a goal.

Therefore, we invite dreamers, visionaries, makers, explorers, constructive critics and everyone with an open heart and the belief in change.

If you feel the call to become part of a Motherworld Movement, which seems tiny at the moment but has incredible potential, please contact us and join us for our gatherings. To find out more about the Vision of Motherworld please see The Motherworld page on Facebook and our website: [www.themotherworld.co.uk](http://www.themotherworld.co.uk)

the Goddess CONFERENCE Moon Maiden

Tuesday 31st July - Sunday 5th August 2018  
with Fringe events Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> July & Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August

Journey with us through six devotional pilgrimage days, celebrating the Moon Maiden Goddess. Join us in sacred ceremony, presentations, workshops, performances, pilgrimages, storytelling, art, music, song and dance as well as healing and nurturing.

Early Bird Full Conference tickets as well as the Fringe tickets, young people tickets, weekend and day tickets are available on the website.

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Email: [Info@goddesstempleteachings.co.uk](mailto:Info@goddesstempleteachings.co.uk)

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## Glastonbury Goddess Temple Experience Week

Explore your connection to Goddess in the heart  
of Glastonbury's Goddess community, based in  
Goddess House and the Goddess Temple  
Led by Priestesses of Goddess & Avalon



May 19th-25th, June 30th-July 6th  
or September 8th-13th

Details:[www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk](http://www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk)

Email: [Info@goddesstempleteachings.co.uk](mailto:Info@goddesstempleteachings.co.uk)

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# Editorial

Hello all you beautiful Goddess-loving people and welcome to the Beltane issue of the Goddess Temple News. For me, this year is an exciting one as my husband and I are celebrating twenty years of marriage, a special occasion which we will mark with a ceremony which is being organised by the wonderful Dawn Kinsella and team love at Goddess Temple weddings. But this got me thinking about what it is that makes some relationships last while others seem to fizzle out quite quickly. Personally I think all healthy relationships are based on respect. If the two members of a partnership don't respect each other then the relationship is doomed. And as a woman, I know how hard it is as women for us to love ourselves. It is so easy to focus on the negative stuff which the media and advertising ram home to us but in learning to truly love ourselves we enrich our lives and the lives of everyone around us. So at the loving time of Beltane share the love around by all means but don't forget to keep some back for yourself. *Janet Parfitt.*



## Happy Beltane from Goddess Temple Weddings By Dawn Kinsella

Beltane honours life, representing the peak of spring and the beginning of summer. Mother Earth's energies are at their strongest and most active. All of life is bursting with potent fertility and at this point in the Wheel of the Year, the potential becomes conception. The 30th April is Beltane eve and this when the sexuality of life and the earth is at its peak. Abundant fertility, on all levels, is the central theme. The Goddess has reached her fullness and is at her most sensual.

It is on this day that Priestesses and Priests from the Goddess Temple celebrate the Beltane rites – a public ceremony, with all attending invited to dance around the Maypole, winding the many coloured ribbons in the dance and celebration of life. During the day the ground is prepared by the Priestesses. A hole is carefully dug and lined with flowers, fruits and garlands, this is blessed as the sacred yoni or gateway and represents the gateway of all life. The Priests and men of the Temple, prepare the Maypole and ceremonially activate the masculine energies within the living wood, before being planted into the body of the Mother, the Earth.

As Beltane is the Great Wedding of the Goddess and the God, it is a popular time for Pagan Weddings or Handfastings. Here in the Glastonbury Goddess Temple we call in the sacred sensual energies of the Goddess Rhiannon and dress the Temple in vibrant reds and greens. Rhiannon, is a Sovereignty Goddess who the king must wed to legitimate his rule. A Goddess of Transformation, she uses her powers for love of others or self. She shines in our hearts as an example of true love and beauty. She appears in both the first and third branches of the Medieval Welsh stories, *The Mabinogion*, a narrative which grew out of the ancient myths of the Celtic Gods and Goddesses. Rhiannon is associated with moon, horses, horseshoes, songbirds, gates, the wind, and the number seven.



## Rhiannon and Pwyll

On this day I have accepted your ring  
Come lay with me, my Prince, my King

In sweet grass and fragrant flowers  
Feel my warmth and sexual powers  
For I am but a maid, dressed in red  
As we lie together on our marriage bed  
Let me show you the secret of my desire  
To stroke the length of your ardent fire  
For I am Rhiannon the Goddess of Love  
Pure and gentle as my winged dove  
Our love will be told as Bard's lore  
The day you stood on my father's Tor  
I caught your eye, the sunlight on my hair  
As I rode by you on my white mare  
You came after me, you did not tarry  
And I had decided that we should marry  
In my father's kingdom we were wed  
Through sparkling, fairy boughs we were led  
We danced with fairies to celebrate our day  
Around Beltane fires, on the eve of May  
So come lay with me, my Prince, my King  
And untold pleasures of love I shall bring.

*Elaine Morgan*

**Priestess of Rhiannon**  
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**First Spiral: Seven Circles between  
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Plastic pollution in our seas is a major problem. I'm pleased to read and see that a momentum is growing where more people are taking action about reducing single-use plastic. Shops and online sales are moving in this direction, and its good news for the environment.

The Goddess Temple has committed to reducing toxic plastic and has begun to switch or reduce plastic with their products where possible. Last year the Goddess Conference switched to using compostable cups/plates, etc. and will continue to take the same action. The Temple now sells Earth Friendly clooties or prayer offerings. Late last year, the Temple switched from plastic caps to metal caps for their incense jars. And Goddess temple Gifts along with the Bedlam shop here in Glastonbury sell eco-glitter!

For those social events that require disposable cups, plates and cutlery I have found two websites as initial suggestions for purchases of bio-degradable products. These are Nisbets catering equipment – they supply wooden, paper cups, plates, cutlery and straws products and Alliance national – which supply oxo-bio flexy glass. It would be good to hear if there are better ones out there?

In December last year Mendip District Council banned single-use plastic and voted to go NSUP (No Single Use Plastics) by passing the following motion: "That this council will become a 'single-use plastic free' council by phasing out the use of 'single use plastic' (SUP) products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all council activities, where it is reasonable to do so, by April 2018 and to encourage our facilities' users, local businesses and other local public agencies to do the same, by championing alternatives, such as reusable water bottles."

Natalie Fee based in Bristol and founder of City to Sea, has been behind the campaign 'switch the stick' switching cotton buds stems, which after pressure – over 155,000 people showed their support to the cause by signing up to the City to Sea campaign on the '38 degrees' website, which called for all major UK retailers to only sell biodegradable paper stem buds, companies such as Tesco, Morrisons, Boots and Aldi, etc. have pledged to switch the stick – Cotton buds stems are the number one item of plastic, sewage-related debris on our rivers and seas.

There's another campaign which City to Sea is connected with, which is called the 'refill initiative' – Refill is a free tap water initiative designed to reduce plastic pollution and promote healthy hydration by making refilling a water bottle easy. There are 1600 refill stations countrywide and I have signed up to the App and hope to get Refill Glastonbury on the map and our shops and cafes to get involved. We, of course, are blessed to have natural spring waters to fill our bottles, which I have included in the Refill App – the White Spring, the Red Spring and Coxley Well.

On February 17th Emily Eavis announced that Glastonbury Festival 2019 is considering banning plastic bottles, this is such a positive step, in 2014 they introduced water kiosks where any type of bottle could get refilled. So let's keep this momentum going. Let's pick up litter, refill our bottles and be mindful of what plastics we are buying.

*Marisa Picardo – Priestess of Rhiannon*  
[www.refill.org.uk](http://www.refill.org.uk), [www.switchthestick.org](http://www.switchthestick.org)  
[www.citttosea.org](http://www.citttosea.org), [www.nisbets.co.uk](http://www.nisbets.co.uk)  
and [www.alliancernational.co.uk](http://www.alliancernational.co.uk)



## Reflections on Glastonbury Goddess Experience Week by Phyllis Baker

I was excited to be attending the Goddess Experience Week in the hope of deepening my connection to the Divine Feminine after a long journey which involved travel to sacred sites in Crete and Santorini and some powerful emotional experiences in those places and the south of England.

These had led me to seek a deeper understanding of the Goddess and Her worship in Great Britain before Christianity systematically stamped it out and destroyed Her temples and priestesses.

Five of us met that first morning, from different countries and continents, with similar experiences. A powerful group of women all seeking the Divine Feminine.

During the week we learned through connection with the land, art, song and ceremony the story of the Lady of Avalon, Nolava. The story of her incarnation was powerfully told and re-created by us into a drama with art and song. I was fearful of the artistic input but managed to create a clay Goddess and a necklace as well as a mural in acrylic, something I did not know I could do, but the Goddess moves in mysterious ways!

Part of the week was spent exploring the land, led by Priestess Marion Brigantia who guided us through a series of chakra meditations enabling us to more deeply question our own feelings and motives. I found this challenging due to poor mobility, but uplifting in the insights I gained. We laughed and sang our way from Wearyall Hill to the summit of the Tor which enabled me to fully appreciate and imagine the legend of the swan maiden, Nolava.

The week culminated with a Sound Bath in the Goddess Temple and then a Guided Meditation to meet the embodied persona of the Goddess. I really felt I had traversed the mystery of Avalon and felt a deep connection with Goddess, the land of Avalon and the Temple. The week was facilitated by priestesses who shared their gifts with us and were available for support if needed. As well as a personal journey of discovery it was an insight into the work of the Priestesses and the Temple of the Goddess in Glastonbury.

For information about Glastonbury Goddess Temple Experience Weeks please go to <https://goddessstempleteachings.co.uk>

## Goddess Temple Gift Shop for all things Goddess

It seems almost unbelievable but the Goddess Temple Gift Shop has been open for five years this year so we would like to thank Susie Quatermass and everybody who has worked, or still works, at the shop for making this fabulous venture possible. Well done to all of you!

2-4 High Street, Glastonbury • [www.goddessstemplegifts.co.uk](http://www.goddessstemplegifts.co.uk)

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Priestess of Avalon, Emotional & Soul Healer

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## The Way of the Völva Norse Shamanka & Priestess of Freya – 2 Spiral Training with Zindra Andersson



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**First Spiral:**

Eight Circles between  
29th/30th Sept 2018–  
10th/11th Aug 2019

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# Priestess/Priest of Cerridwen Training with Goddess Temple Glastonbury

## Study Topics:

- ∞ Self Actualization
- ∞ Cariatid Enaid - Sacred Listener
- ∞ Soul Path Therapy
- ∞ Care for the Dying
- ∞ Swynwraig - Herbwise Healing
- ∞ Tree and Plant Spirit Craft
- ∞ Crystal Healing
- ∞ Elemental Divination
- ∞ Oracling & Embodiment
- ∞ Ceremonialist - Funeral Celebrant, Rites of Passage, Moon Rituals, Seasonal Ceremonies
- ∞ Community Wellness Liaison



Become a Priestess or Priest of the Goddess of Healing, Transformation, Death and Rebirth, with Priestess of Avalon and Cerridwen, **Bee Helygen**, MA, OBOD.



Journey through the labyrinth with the Goddess by your side, meet your authentic Self in the centre, through Her mediation find your Priestess Within, Your Highest Self. Once you have learned the Priestess skills, help heal and guide others in that journey. If you hear Cerridwen's call, contact me on **07906 098284** or email me at [bee@cerridwen.co.uk](mailto:bee@cerridwen.co.uk) and visit [www.cerridwen.co.uk](http://www.cerridwen.co.uk) for more information.

**Starts November 2018**