

# Goddess Temple News

Lammas 2019

Donations Welcome



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

**A**t this time of year the Avalon Goddess Temple in Glastonbury is dressed in the beautiful golds of the grain harvest as we honour Mother Ker at Lammas. This is the season when we celebrate the abundance of Nolava as She gifts us the fruits of Her nature seen in the ripening of the corn in the fields along with the fruits and vegetables in the orchards, hedgerows and gardens on the sacred Isle of Avalon.

At Lammas we honour the Mother aspect of Goddess by recognising and offering respect for all the mothers who birthed us into this earthly life.

Our Mother is our origin, we are a part of her long before she is born and she is our world from the first beating of our heart to the first breath. She is the body that wraps us in safety and warmth as we journey from conception to birth providing all we need to grow. It is our relationship to our own mothers that is the pivotal relationship in our lives and as we begin to journey to meet Goddess and reclaim our sovereignty in our own lives we are accompanied in the shadows by our own mother wound, passed down ancestrally from mother to daughter through generational time.

It is in this Mother Goddess Temple in Avalon that many visitors meet Goddess for the first time and Lammas is a powerful time

to open the places in your heart where your mother wound lives, as the sun shines so brightly at the height of the summer here in Avalon so the shadows of the unhealed trauma of the past, both personal and collective, can be seen more clearly.

There is great healing to be found in our relationship to Mother Ker, whatever your mother wound you can ask for healing at this time, to bring forth your potentiality, to step outside of the story of who you think you are and to practice remembering and becoming who you are meant to be for your own life and for the lives of all those women whose love brought you here.

As Lammas is the time of the ripening of the harvest in the fields of Avalon so the dreams and visions we have held within since the winter solstice begin to birth. This potentiality has travelled through the dreamtime into the quickening at Imbolc, through the creative womb at the spring equinox and into the blessings of love at Beltane, then swimming in the deep waters of memory at the summer solstice and now preparing for birth, to womanifest into this world of form.

The birthing of our ideas, our personal and collective dreams and potentiality is the harvesting of all that has grown, that has been fed by the grist of our experiences, through this wheel of time since Samhain. 'If you dream it, you can become it' and She is dreaming you right now at this moment in time to become a direct expression of Her love in this abundant and beautiful world. The Goddess Temple in Glastonbury offers you the best Avalon Priestess/Priest trainings in the world and the most incredible healing

through direct participation in courses created to empower and heal you.

Come and experience the deep transformational healing power of this sacred land and open to the world of potentiality, creativity and abundance that exists within you.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and we hope to see you in Glastonbury and in the Temple in the future.

For information about the Glastonbury Goddess Temple, teachings and healing courses go to: [www.goddesstemple.co.uk](http://www.goddesstemple.co.uk)

For gifts and inspiration go to:  
[www.goddesstemplegifts.co.uk](http://www.goddesstemplegifts.co.uk)

For healing therapies go to:  
[www.glastonburygoddesshouse.co.uk](http://www.glastonburygoddesshouse.co.uk)

With many blessings of abundance and healing at Lammas.

*Sue Quatermass  
Priestess of Avalon  
Ancestral and emotional healer  
Visionatrix at Goddess Temple Gifts.*

**Apologies** to Priestess Dawn Kinsella, for in the Beltane edition of the Goddess Temple News the wonderfully talented Dawn wrote the cover article and I forgot to credit her for it. So sorry about that Dawn, I never meant to cause you any offence and I promise it will never happen again.

*Janet Parfitt – Editor.*

# Skills of the Sacred Birthkeeper

**A** long time ago but not that many generations back, birthing women were cared for by their families and communities. The Grandmother midwives and wisdom holders were a source of knowledge, experience and support to birthing mothers and their skills were passed down the generations.

Pregnancy and birth were not medical events to be monitored, measured and medicated, but sacred rites of passage to be honoured, acknowledged and celebrated.

It doesn't take many generations of disruption for this age-old oral tradition to be lost. As medicalisation and regulation increase, lay skills become devalued and disregarded. The warm caring hands of the Birthkeeper become replaced by the shiny instruments of the medical professional.

We are lucky in our modern society to have access to life saving medical care. However, this system for many can be a clinical and soul-less experience.

The birthkeepers of our fore-mother's generations understood that pregnancy and birth were more than just biology. They sensed and understood that this was sacred work. The beginnings of new life in the womb opens us up to the divine mysteries of life. It is a powerful and empowering initiation but also a time of great change and vulnerability.

The passage from Maidenhood to Motherhood marks a period of change in a woman's life. Her body, mind, emotions, identity and place in society all shift and change. These changes were once honoured by ceremony, ritual and traditions that helped a woman through this life changing journey. Birth was centred around home and hearth. We witnessed our mothers, sisters and aunts as they birthed and breastfed their babies. We assisted our elders and learned at their feet.

In today's modern world it is important that we start to reclaim the skills and traditions of the Sacred Birthkeeper. Much of our oral tradi-

tions have been lost but we can re discover them by exploring the threads that remain.

Goddess stories, myths and archetypes can give us clues and are a rich source of divine inspiration. Deepening our connection to the Divine Mother in our daily practice helps us to open more to the life-giving mysteries of the womb and the cycles of life and death in all of Her nature.

Folk stories, "old wives" tales and superstitions can be doorways to lost wisdom. Language and words themselves can often give us clues to deeper truths.

With respect and honouring and without appropriating, we can look to living cultures in other parts of the world that still retain their matrilineal traditions. When we look closely, we find very similar practices even in quite different parts of the world. This can often reveal the common practices and traditions that we all once held. As medical advances spread around the world many of these traditions are dying out as younger women choose the "modern" way instead of the ways of their grandmothers. It can be part of our sacred work to preserve and reclaim this knowledge for all womankind.

If you feel the call of the Sacred Birthkeeper deep within your being and would like to spend time exploring and deepening into these practices, then I would love you to join me on a new one-year spiral in Avalon beginning Imbolc 2020

Please do get in touch for more details. I look forward to getting to know you.

*With love and blessings,*

*Kate Fletcher  
Priestess of Avalon  
and Sacred Birthkeeper.*



## Editorial

Welcome to the Lammas edition of the Goddess Temple News. This is the time when we worship the Great Mother Goddess, Ker. At the Goddess Temple we honour all mothers but not everyone has children so we also honour mothering qualities. We all have the ability to nurture whether it is people, animals or plants that we are caring for. And at this time, when we are surrounded by oceans of plastic and pollution on the land, we need to remember that this incredible planet that we live on needs nurturing too. Wishing you all a blessed Lammas.



*Janet Parfitt – Editor, Priestess of the Goddess  
and Priestess of Cerridwen.*

A colorful illustration of a woman with long, flowing hair, wearing a red and yellow garment. She is holding a book or scroll. The background is dark with a full moon and stars. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Sacred Birthkeeper  
One Spiral Training**

*with Sacred Birthkeeper &  
Priestess Kate Fletcher*

**Learn the Skills of the Sacred Birthkeeper,  
who holds practical and sacred knowledge of  
the Mysteries of the Rite of Passage of Birth,  
for mothers, babies and community**

**First Spiral: Eight Circles between  
1st/2nd February & 5th/6th December 2020**

**Info: [www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk](http://www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk)**

**Email: [info@goddess temple teachings.co.uk](mailto:info@goddess temple teachings.co.uk)**

**Glastonbury Goddess Temple  
2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU**



# In the Name of Love



**W**hat's in a name? Why are names so powerful? Words carry thought and intent. They have a power all their own. With them we can lift people up, soothe our children and bring smiles to sad faces. But words can also destroy lives, shatter dreams and crush whole nations.

Our names often come to define us and yet they are ones that someone else has chosen for us. We may grow into these names like old slippers or we may rebel and be utterly defiant of them (I once knew a Wilfred who sported black studded leather and a blue Mohican haircut!) But ultimately, we did not choose them, and they may sit uneasily with us or even feel like another person entirely. How do we seek to change the energies inherent in a name?

For some of us in the Goddess community, the realisation of our true name comes at a time of its own choosing. It can feel like a key

turning in a lock and emboldens us to open a new door of our lives. It brings us a sense of a widening horizon and the courage to embark into new adventures and experiences.

My own name given to me by my mother never felt entirely right. It has always felt like another person, a pale reflection in a dirty mirror and separate from my true self. It is a strange and oddly-charmed existence having a given name that has always felt slightly alien to you. It's like being an observer in your own show and it's been an irritating and persistent thorn in my psyche on a subliminal level my whole life.

And so, one sunny morning last Beltane, my true name rocked up and said hello. Sitting up in bed one morning, drinking tea and semi-meditating, I spied a blackbird on the tree outside my bedroom window. It struck me suddenly that blackbirds have been with me always. No matter where I am, blackbirds appear. A memory surfaced. My mother telling me once how she had gone out into our garden one day to check on me, only to find a blackbird perched on my pram and looking down at me. I have always loved them. They scold and scurry, full of sass and attitude. They shine like wet jet against the undergrowth, berries like garnets in their beaks and scuttle along to hoard them in their secret places. They give me such a feeling of almost kindred love and affection whenever I see them that I could happily watch them all day.

As I watched this blackbird, I instinctively knew that my name, my true name, would be the Gaelic word for blackbird. Perhaps this is because my given name is Gaelic in origin, and I was named for a County in Ireland. With barely contained excitement and anticipation, I looked it up. And felt everything click into place. The key turned in the lock.

*Lon Dubh.*

## **Emotional Healing – November 2019**

**Emotional healing is an opportunity to travel deeply within to release the memories of the past.**

**We sit in circle and work together using deep breath work and self-expression to encourage emotional release... 'Healing the generational stories that have been passed down through your ancestral line.'**

**November dates are Friday 15<sup>th</sup> (eve),  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

**Cost per person is £125, (a £50 deposit is required to secure your booking). To book your place please contact  
Sue Quatermass, Priestess of Avalon**

**[sue.quatermass@virgin.net](mailto:sue.quatermass@virgin.net)**





**Goddess House**  
School of Holistic Therapies



2019 dates:

21st – 22nd September	Elemental Goddess Healing
5th – 6th October	Indian Head Massage
26th – 27th October	Healing Touch – Arms, Legs & Hand Reflexology
16th – 17th November	Hot Stones massage
23rd – 24th November	Indian Head Massage
7th – 8th December	Elemental Goddess Healing
14th – 15th December	Chakra Energy Healing



[info@nandinidasi.co.uk](mailto:info@nandinidasi.co.uk)  
07951 534960  
[www.nandinidasi.co.uk](http://www.nandinidasi.co.uk)



*MotherWorld*

*Gathering*

**28th, 29th September 2019**  
**Glastonbury Goddess Hall**

*How do we create a Motherworld society which places Mother Earth, mothers & mother values in the centre of everything? With talks, discussion, ceremony, activism, Motherworld political party.*

Free tickets for mothers of young children  
Tickets from:  
[www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk](http://www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk)  
Glastonbury Goddess Temple  
2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU

**Three Spiral Priestess/  
Priest of Avalon Training**

With **Luna Silver & Kathy Jones**



Simply the best Priestess /Priest training available in the world!

Open your heart, deepen your relationship to Goddess in Avalon and Her seasons, stimulate your creativity and transform your life for the better.

Open to women and men who love the Goddess and are called to Avalon

**First Spiral: Eight Circles between Oct 26th/27th 2019–Sept 19th/20th 2020**

Email Priestess training also available

**Info: [www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk](http://www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk)**  
Glastonbury Goddess Temple,  
2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU

**Earth Body Medicine:  
Wild Medicine Dance  
Trainings**

With **Iris Lican**

**Medicine Woman, Ritual Artist  
Dancer from Portugal**  
**Ritual Dance Training in Glastonbury**  
**2nd-8th Sept 2019**

**2020 Wild Medicine Dancer  
Taster weekend 27th/28th April**  
**2020 Becoming Green 1st-7th June**  
**2020 Becoming Ground 21st-27th Sept**

**Info: [www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk](http://www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk)**  
Glastonbury Goddess Temple,  
2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU



# Goddess Temple Rites of Passage

Over the past year within Glastonbury Goddess Temple we have been exploring how the Vision of Motherworld can be applied to our own Goddess community. We have been looking at all the ways in which we are bringing Goddess alive in the world and also all the ways in which we can care for each other as a Goddess-centered community. We see care for each other beginning before conception, continuing throughout life, with care for the aged and dying, and after life for those who are grieving.

Part of this journey of care involves the recognition that throughout life there are significant times of change when a person moves from one state of being to another. These transitions are traditionally marked by Rites of Passage created by a community for an individual or group of individuals. In our Temple Motherworld conversations we have talked about what Rites of Passage are and which ones we wish to particularly focus on in our community.

Rites of Passage provide conscious support for the Soul as s/he incarnates into the world, marking major transitions as we travel through life. A Rite of Passage is a process, not just a ceremony enacted on one particular day. The Rite includes conscious preparation which may take weeks, months and even years to complete. It involves one or more major ceremonies created by the community for the individuals concerned and then importantly includes aftercare for the individual as they take a new place within the community. With each Rite of Passage there is a change of identity for the individual, within themselves and in relation to the wider community. A major factor in each of our selected Rites of Passage involves a time when we come face to face with the great Mystery of Life and Death, when we meet our deepest fears and must delve into our Soul's resource of

courage. The whole experience involves physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual and social change.

The Temple Rites we are looking at include the process of Birth from the child's perspective, Menarche and Puberty for girls, Puberty for boys, Birthing from the mother's perspective, Menopause for women, Manopause for men, Dying and Death. There are obviously many other important transitions which take place throughout life, but they do not include all the factors we are suggesting. For example, there are times of change and growth, say at seven years old, or when young people leave home or at Saturn return or on marriage or divorce or during the mid-life crisis, or with illness. These changes are marked by Life Ceremonies which are not necessarily the responsibility of the community as a whole, although people can always ask for support.

As part of the cycles of care within our Motherworld community we are also suggesting that there are many more kinds of support circles or Tents, held by those who have experiences to share and hold for others. The colours of the Tents are based on the colours of the Wheel of the Year. For example, Green Tents for children, Young Women and Young Men, Red Tent for women of all ages, White Tent for men, Pale Gold Tent for pregnant and new mothers, Gold Tents for mothers of older children, etc.

We are looking forward to developing all these ideas in the coming year.

*Kathy Jones, Priestess of Avalon.*



2019 is the last year I will be serving the Goddess at the front desk at the Goddess Conference, holding the energy at the gate – one foot on the street and one foot in the circle. It has been an incredible honour to have served in this way for 16 years. I've attended the conference since its birth in 1996 – the most meaningful event in my life's turning points. I am so very grateful to everyone I've met and worked with over the years. We all meet for a reason and that reason has been love and devotion of the Goddess. My undying love to Kathy Jones – all she has envisioned has come to be and she is inspiration. It's overwhelming to think of walking away, but it's time – one of the hardest things I've ever done. Much love to you all, and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*Roz Bound*

**Goddess Temple Gifts**

Jewellery      Sculpture  
Books            CD's  
Ceramics        Incense  
Cards            Prints  
Unique Art       Banners  
Gorgeous clothes  
and so much more....  
for all things Goddess  
2-4 High Street, Glastonbury  
[www.goddess temple gifts.co.uk](http://www.goddess temple gifts.co.uk)

## Interview with Trevor Nuthall about being a Priest of the Goddess



Photo by Joanne La Fey

**Janet Parfitt:** How did you come to Goddess?

**Trevor Nuthall:** I'd been looking for a spiritual path since my teens; I'd looked at Buddhism and Wicca and my first wife was a witch in a coven. Before we were in a relationship I had been helping Mary (Bruce) with things. Then, in 2005, I had a dream that a lion-headed Goddess, who I realised later was Sekhmet, was pointing at a path. The same year I saw a blue statue of Goddess on a market stall which I really loved. The following year I was melissaing at the Conference when I went to the Temple and one of the priestesses was embodying Cerridwen and She turned to me and said, "You're mine." In 2011 I was again melissaing at the Conference and I went to the Chalice Well. One of the priestesses who was there started to embody Goddess on the spot and She said to me, "I need you back now." That evening I reclaimed my priest self and soon after I signed up for spiral one of the Avalon training.

**Janet:** What does Goddess mean to you?

**Trevor:** When I was a young kid I was lucky that we lived quite close to a forest and my parents used to take me for lots of long walks there. I connect best to Goddess through my love of nature, through the land



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



Learn the Arts of the Völva, the Practice of Seidr, trance journeying, the skills of the Old Wise Women, learning to love and serve Mother Earth and Goddess Freya.

**First Spiral:**  
Eight Circles between  
**28th/29th Sept 2019 –**  
**25th/26th July 2020**

**Info:** [www.goddessstempleteachings.co.uk](http://www.goddessstempleteachings.co.uk)  
**Email:** [Info@goddessstempleteachings.co.uk](mailto:Info@goddessstempleteachings.co.uk)  
**Glastonbury Goddess Temple,**  
**2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU**

and my connection to the Earth. To me Goddess is about non-hierarchical community, service to others and no power-over. She represents a more harmonious way of doing things where we look after each other as well as the planet.

**Janet:** Why do you think Priests are important?

**Trevor:** As well as bringing a sense of balance and harmony priests are important in creating and holding safe space for the priestesses. And it gives the message that Goddess is inclusive. It is a challenge for some men to sit in circle but it gives men a chance to be open, honest and emotional and share their feelings.

**Janet:** Do you think there is a resistance to priests and why?

**Trevor:** It is a big thing. A lot of people come from other religions which are totally patriarchal and people have a lot of wounding from that. The word "priest" can be seen in a very negative way because of the things that have happened in other religions.

**Janet:** How do you see your role as a priest going forward into the future?

**Trevor:** I love being in circle and doing a lot of the unseen work and I love holding space. I just want to keep doing it.

If you have any questions about being a priest of the Temple you can contact Trevor on: [trevornuthall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trevornuthall@yahoo.co.uk)



# Everything you feel is true

"You who could have told me; Everything you feel is true."  
Adrienne Rich

It has been four months since you died.  
I am looking for the photo of us in the garden. You, tall Amazon of the Snow White colouring bestriding me. My flares are wide, your skirt so very short. It is lost in the flotsam of our family. You smile at me from a dozen birthday parties.

You were always coming home. I watched raindrops run down the front window making bargains with myself, "By the time I count to... she'll be here."

I used to count raindrops, now I count your breaths, and the spaces between them. I sit and hold your hand. I do your nails because in my whole life I have never seen you without a manicure. The nurse cries when he sees.

London: we are in a queue as long as forever. We are going to see the boy king's golden mask they made him when he died. They must have loved him very much.

I will make you a golden mask my sister, visit your beloved Temples and send prayers up to keep you wrapped in Isis' soft wings.

On the last day the women come to wash you and draw the curtains round us both. We are women, silent together, doing work that women have always done. Later when I let go your hand you raise your finger regally, like the Queens you are named for, until I take it again, stroke your hair, whisper, "I'm here, you are not alone, I've got you." I feel our grandmother very close and your mother shines from your face. I tell you all the things there was never time for. As a child it was you who walked in front and left the breadcrumbs, shining like the moon.

Next week I will watch men carry your coffin up a bleak Sussex Down and bury you in the chalk as sunbeams burst through English cloud and light up the sea.

But for now you are still here and I can hold your hand as I did when I was little and the world of the tall people was confusing. The hand I held to cross roads and thresholds. The eyes that smiled into mine when the prayers made no sense and the sermon was too long.

I look for you to smile into my eyes on that chalk cliff and their absence is as brutal as the wind.

There is a picture of you, cloche-hatted, in a sailboat with our brother, before your Mother died. It has faded to sepia and you are steering into the distance. It could almost be a felucca.

You used to sit beside me on the bed, early on those Monday mornings before you headed off, while I pretended to sleep. Now it is me stroking your hair and whispering farewell.

You leave an hour into Armistice Day. And the world is full of poppies, spilling out everywhere, falling from the sky. Like raindrops down a windowpane.

In my dreams my hand is still in yours, skipping down the road, my heart silver, like the light from The River we are approaching. And suddenly you are ahead of me; a figure in the prow of a sailboat, young again, steering into the current, disappearing into the sun. And I let you go.

Katie Player.





# Avalon Cauldron Gathering

November 2nd and 3rd 2019 Goddess House Glastonbury

To all who love the Dark Goddess, the Queen of the Otherworld, All Mother of Annwn. The Cerridwen Priestesses and Priests invite you to join us for our annual gathering.

This year we have decided to create two spectacular days since we have added another group of talented Priestesses to our Kindred. Sacred secrets, join us and learn about Her mysteries and magic.



Call Bee on  
07906 098284  
for more  
information



What will we talk about?

- ◆ Death Priestess in the NHS
- ◆ Cerridwen So(u)rceress
- ◆ Avalon Soul Healing™
- ◆ Healing with Horses
- ◆ Journey to the Western Isle
- ◆ Sacred Brew Ceremony

KeyNote Speaker Kathy Jones Visit [www.avaloncauldrongathering.com](http://www.avaloncauldrongathering.com)

## Priest-esses of Cerridwen 2 Year Spiral Training



We are Her healing hands, we hold and care for all.

We are Her listening ears, we sit and listen to all.

We are Her helping voice, advocates for those who can not speak for themselves.

We are Her ceremonial circles, creating meaningful rituals to celebrate the Rites of Passage and the flow of the seasons.

We are Her serving hands, serving our communities and the people of the world ideal with good times and bad.



Call Bee on  
07906 098284  
for more  
information  
about the next  
training cycle  
starting in November 2019.



Come discover the Dark Mother of the Wheel of Avalon, Queen of Annwn, Mistress of Magic and Mystery; Calon o Gariad - Heart of Love, bringing us to our Priestess Self.

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