



Aspects of Ker – Mothering and Me

I started training to be a Priestess in the Avalon training in 2014 and spiral one is all about connecting with the Goddesses and all their aspects throughout the wheel of the year. And I think most Priestesses have one or more Goddesses that we really love and really connect with but I found there was one Goddess I really struggled to connect with and that was Ker. The problem for me was that I spent years trying to get pregnant without success and eventually visited a fertility clinic and after a rather stressful examination I was told by the specialist that I couldn't have children. When I heard the news I was devastated. I cried for days. I had dreamed and wished to be pregnant for so long that to have my beautiful dream ripped away seemed too cruel. And still, to this day, it is part of my wounding.

During spiral two I was at home on my own practising calling in the wheel and when I got to Ker I just couldn't do it. I lost my temper and shouted at Her for at least a couple of minutes. When I'd eventually calmed down She spoke to me. And the gist of what She said was that in other lives I had had many children and I had spent my whole life running round after them ; loving them, caring for them, feeding them, cleaning up after them, etc. In this life it was time to look after myself. There were other ways I could mother (I am a carer

for my disabled husband) so that is how I nurture in this life. But part of my lesson for this life is learning to take care of myself, something I'm still not very good at. Ker was so lovely and so sweet that needless to say, I ended up crying and I felt bad for yelling at Her but She did not mind.

Being a mother to children is, of course, hugely important but it is not an experience that every woman gets to have. For those of us who are childless, by accident or design, we have to find another way to experience the qualities of nurturing and mothering. Men too, can experience the qualities of mothering, with their own children or caring for friends or relatives. My own husband looked after his elderly mother up to her death and he is a very gentle caring man so I'm sure he was a very good and attentive carer.

Professional nurses, doctors and carers all do wonderful jobs looking after patients, especially at this difficult time. Ker does not discriminate in my belief. She is the Great Mother who is there for all Her children whether they have children of their own or not. Because ultimately we are all Her Children and She nurtures us all.

*Janet Parfitt
Priestess of the Goddess
and Priestess of Cerridwen.*

Editorial

Welcome to the Lammas edition of the Goddess Temple News ! Once again, the newsletter will only be available virtually because of the ongoing situation but Goddess is still in the world and so we go on as best as we can. 2020 has been a very challenging year so far and yet there is always something to feel grateful for. This year, more than ever, I really feel we must count our blessings and appreciate what we have. Ker is the Great Mother and She will see us through all the difficulties that we face but we must approach Her with an open heart ready to receive Her divine love. Wishing you all the blessings of this season.

Janet Parfitt, Editor

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Support the Goddess Temple

For almost two decades the Goddess Temple has stood in the centre of Glastonbury, a sign of Goddess Energy returning into the world. Many people have supported the temple out of love and care for Goddess, giving their time, their energy and money, to help keep this sacred space open, each and every day, 365 days a year. The space for Goddess gives hope to so many seekers, joy and rest to an abundance of pilgrims who have come to see and feel Her presence in their life. Often the temple is the first contact for many who come thinking it is just another shop, and stay because of the peace and beauty of the temple. The temple needs you to help provide this for them.

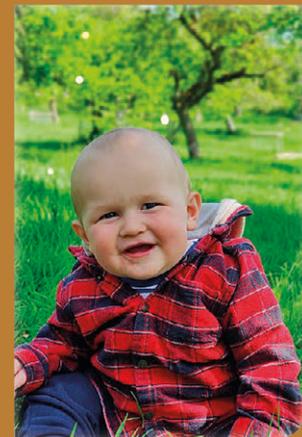
Becoming a Temple Melissa : giving a few hours each month, to hold space and take care of the visitors, is one of the most exciting and joyful moments in my life. We are the guardians of the temple, we serve the gateway to Her healing and love. If you would like to experience this joy, come and join us in service to the temple. Do you have two hours or more a month to hold the temple space? Would you like to be one of the caretakers of this unique place in the world? Become someone who makes a difference, sending Her light into the world. **To become a Temple Melissa, visit <https://goddess temple.co.uk/temple-melissas/>**

Help the temple thrive : if time is not in your power to gift, then perhaps you would consider becoming a Temple Madron?

The temple raises a good deal of money by donation each year from people who visit it and give in gratitude for this devotional space. Alas, monthly costs are rising and what is needed are regular monthly donations to keep the temple open. Any amount you can give will help us to continue opening this beautiful place for Goddess here in the heart of Avalon. Becoming a member of our community as a Temple Madron comes with its own gifts, including a copy of our monthly newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with the fantastic events we offer, plus an invitation to our incomparable Madron day, where members of the temple delight with interesting, entertaining and fun presentations. Friends and Melissa events are also available to you. There is so much joy to be had from meeting our community and celebrating with us the Return of the Goddess in the world. Help us keep the healing of Goddess available to all who travel to Avalon in search of Her.

To become a Temple Madron, visit <https://goddess temple.co.uk/donate/>

Becoming a Mother



The journey to motherhood has many paths : for some it is a biological event and for others it is adoption or fostering. For me, my son's arrival was a long, difficult journey and I only wish I could explain the feeling of motherhood in a universal way. I can, however, describe my own feelings of being blessed with a child by the goddess.

I found out on December 31st 2018 that I was pregnant with my son, a little plastic stick in my hand and the huge realisation that I had been blessed with a new life growing in me. The accumulation of all the healing received and tests of my faith that I had overcome finally bore fruit. I would say that this is where my transition to 'mother' started however, it was more a subtle development and while I made no secret of my gift, I did hold my breath. It felt like the cool air rising before the storm. I stood before a threshold, supported by the maiden and lover taking stock of all the lessons before I crossed over into mother. I say this would be the calm before the storm as I went around my life semi-normally, carrying this sacred seed within me. In time we found out his biological sex and we gave him his goddess given name, his due date being at the time of the rowan trees'.

The threshold required more change than what was happening with my body, she required me to ground myself in fertile soil and to sacrifice all that impaired me. I moved to Glastonbury, making more permanent connections to the sisters of the community and leaving behind a job that required so much of my energy. My son was to be born in the Isle of Avalon

as he was a creation of her grace and spirit. His butterfly movements became energetic kicking. I was graced with having blessing ceremonies throughout the process, making the journey through the portal an empowered experience.

The morning my son was placed into my arms, I felt like I had been struck by lightning. The feeling of love, the magnitude of the blessing and the perfection of this little soul hit me. I felt like I understood what it meant to be a mother as he rested within my arms, however, staring into those blue eyes and finally connecting with him in a physical world shattered all expectations. Motherhood has connected my family beyond that of my bloodline, making friends more than just acquaintances. A good storm will always bring some rain and the road of motherhood was not without its bumps. I needed support as I suffered a case of mild postnatal depression and was advised to attend group therapy. The role of mother is colossal, it can engender a feeling of inadequacy and fear of failure. In going through this, I found a network of women making the circles of old in contemporary ways. Whatsapp keeps us connected, with requests for babysitting, support and the swapping of clothes. Modernity allowing for the circle of women to be open but not unbroken, sisterhood as ancient as the world, using modern technology to stay connected. I want to thank Dawn Kinsella, Sally Bryant and Janet Parfitt for their support and love for me. Faery Goddess Mothers that you are.

*Blessed be,
Charlene Baganz – Moore Priestess of Isis*

On Becoming a Mother's Mother

There are stages in a woman's life that signify a change, a transformation from one identity to another, to grow our soul experience in this life.

I never dared to dream of becoming a Grandmother, or Grandmama as I would like to be called, (fat chance I know). My daughter was born with an immune deficiency that almost cost her her life several times as a small girl, and to this day she is on weekly plasma transfusions to control her symptoms. She will never be healthy, or even resistant to infections and viruses. So you can imagine how this recent pandemic frightened us, worrying about losing my precious baby, whom I nurtured and nourished for 35 years. Hospital visits and stays have become the norm, I know how to pack a bag for transport in minutes if needed. Long nights spent by the bedside of my precious child as she bled from nose and ears, her own body fighting her every breath. Survival then was our only goal.

When she first mentioned having her own children the esteemed medical profession made it very clear to her that she would not survive, neither would the child. There was no option, no possibility of that ever changing. I resigned myself to that fact as long as I had her.

Yet, deep down inside her a knowledge grew that if she had survived this long against all the odds and warnings of the same medical profession, surely they could be wrong about this? She has gotten her healthy distrust of the white coats from me. Modern medicine made me what I am: differently abled. We talked for two years of her desire to have a child. The dangers, the possibilities of uttermost heartbreak. For her if the child did not thrive prior or post birth, the possibility of the baby inheriting our disease, since it runs through my Motherline. The possibility of her getting sicker, in the end having to make the choice between her and the baby, a choice that might be mine to make eventually and might put me in the position of having to choose between my daughter's life and that of her child.

Sleepless nights. Endless discussions. Worst case scenarios.

In the end plans were made, and she became pregnant. Easily, without any trouble. Without any help from a reluctant medical profession. When her medical team were informed they were horrified, tried to get her to change her mind (fat chance again), painted the worst events for her, the possibility of not being able to support her medically should she persist on this path, not so veiled threats of withdrawal of care ensued. She could not be shaken.

Through the pregnancy she thrived, all the danger points during any pregnancy were passed with flying colours. She thrived, as did the baby, against all the odds.

When it came to the birth, once again the threats of danger and disaster were bandied about, and this time, because we had seen him move and grow, and he had become real we had fallen in love. Of course, we heeded the warnings and gave ourselves into the hands of the machine. I now desperately wish we hadn't, these were the most trying 17 hours of my life, the complete feeling of not being heard, not being spoken to like an adult, of not being informed properly on the many procedures she and the baby had to endure. I am still traumatized. In the name of expediency and cost effectiveness many mothers are now being convinced to have the babies induced, an act of violence against nature that if I had known the extent and truth of

the intervention, I would never have allowed. My daughter's care became secondary, the team delivering the baby had no consideration for her health, she was carved up against her immunologist's fervent advice, I am not even sure the delivery team had read her files properly. There is no words on the anger I felt, I became Tiger Mama, defending her cub against the indignities and trials she was subjected to. At one point I am sure security was on the way to cart me off.

Despite all that unpleasantness, Rowan Hunter Taliesin arrived and made his presence known. My daughter was so unwell that she held him for a few minutes and then he was given to me. He lay in my arms, eyes wise and trusting, and my whole world contracted into that single moment, that little face, my lineage. If you will believe me: I could feel every Grandmother of my line look over my shoulders, looking at this new arrival, giving him the will to live and all the blessings of the Ancestors. I had prayed my hands bloody for their support over the last 9 months, asking for their help, their assistance, their guidance, for their wisdom, kindness and protection. They had given it, they had provided all they could, and my gratitude will always be with them. Having felt their presence so closely to me and my baby and her baby, I now know that one day, when the time comes, I will be joining them and looking down on the children born in our line.

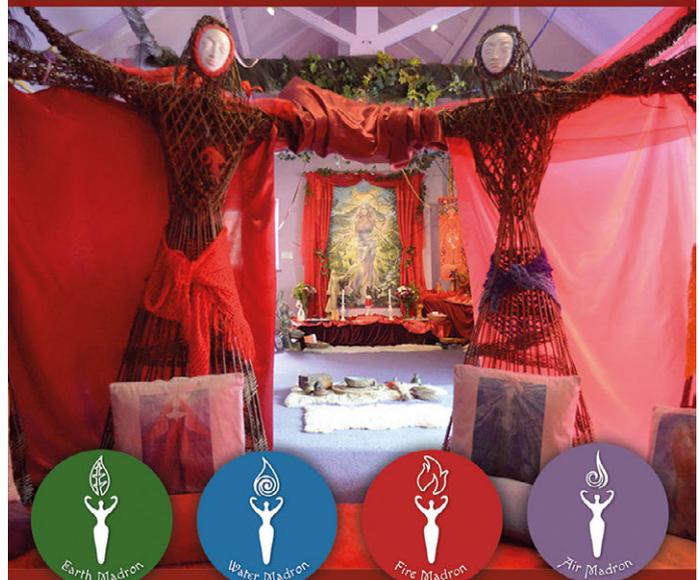
Becoming and being a grandmother is the most terrifying, exhilarating adventure of my life so far.

Blood of my blood, I honour thee, and thank thee for the gifts of life you have provided. So mote it be.

*Bee Helygen, Priestess of Cerridwen
and Avalon: bee@cerridwen.co.uk*



Welcome to the Virtual Goddess Temple
Explore our new Madron membership scheme



Receive monthly exclusive content from the Temple.
Deepen your connection to Goddess and Avalon
from wherever you are in the world.
Monthly seasonal videos, prayers,
discounts & an invitation to a virtual Temple.

www.goddess temple.co.uk/join-the-virtual-temple

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Goddess Conference



Twenty-five years, and another circle around the sun, another Goddess Conference and the raising of Her great Temple in Glastonbury, to welcome and make visible, celebrate and honour Goddess in the world.

This year's celebration of the Earth Mother Goddess, will be the first ever Goddess Conference to be a fully online event !

And what a strange, and at the same time unique, opportunity to bring Goddess out into the world in more culturally inclusive, new, widespread ways, in such alignment to the original intention of this wonderful international Goddess celebration.

The Glastonbury Goddess Conference was initiated and created by Kathy Jones in 1996, with the help of Tina Redpath as co-organiser.

Over the years it has developed and changed, but from the very start, the Goddess Conference carried the strongly held intention of making Goddess visible, and bringing Her presence as a lived experience out into the world. Out of this intention birthed the Glastonbury Goddess Temple and the Priestess of Avalon, as well as many other Goddess Temples and Priestess trainings, within the Avalonian lineage.

This 25th year is the middle part of a new five year cycle in which we work with Her as She wishes to express, in elemental, mythical and archetypal ways. And so we stand at a point of balance, and a time to remember some of the amazing Conference experiences we've shared and held together ... so far.

We have celebrated Bridie with ceremony on Wearyall Hill, and Swan feathered maidens dancing in the Town Hall Temple.

We have created the Conference sacred flame of the Goddess, and experienced Her shining out of the loving eyes of Her girdled healing priestesses, encircling the participants : Radiant Her blessings amongst us.

We've build bowers on the land for the Wild Maiden Goddess. To retrieve our soul skins we go into the Earth-dens to find Her embodied as the land and connect to our wild self.

The year we celebrated the Great Mother Goddess Ker and Her abundant blessings, we enacted, as an entire Goddess Conference, in sacred drama, the creation myth of Avalon.

MAWA we have sung Your sacred chants into the lands and into our bones, to set free the places held in the ash lands of desolation.

Ochre and charcoal covered priestesses danced around the cauldron of trans-formation as Crone Goddesses, and Beauty walked amongst us as a Blessing.

We have spun the mother line back into the Now, from the time of great forgetting, and we've woven the Death Road and walked with the Crone of Death into the other-world, to be loved back by Her ancient presence into choosing rebirth and living fully.

We honoured Goddess as the Grand Mothers in Her animal wisdom tribes, sang their memories into our bodies and danced with the Morgens as they flew in all their magnificence amongst us ; whispering in tongues, messengers and oracle, in the night lit gardens of the Chalice Well.

We fire-walked in ceremony ; three huge fires in the sacred land, with drumming priestesses to take our fear and transform it into courage : for we can do anything, be anything, blessed by the power of the Goddess of Fire.

Emerging from the warm waters of the sacred White Spring in a soft sound scape, magic flowing over us, we have poured Her sweet medicine of Love, mixed from the waters of the world, into the river Brue. Singing songs of belonging and healing, we journeyed on the barge to the mythical realm of the Water Goddess.

25th anniversary

We made a Love tunnel as women, to honour all the Goddess loving men in Her name, and sang their praises... and we are changed, we are healed, we are radiant with the empowerment of Her love.

We sing Sally Pullinger's and other Goddess musician's chants together and our hearts open. We dance... and call to Her: 'Goddess, She has blessed us, blessed us with Her power, blessed us with Her presence, blessed us with Her love'...

2016 was the last year where Kathy Jones was the organiser and ceremonial vision holder, as she handed this sacred task on to Marion van Eupen and Katinka Soetens.

It has so far been a great joy, privilege and honour, to step into the lineage handed down from Avalon, and the new heritage that the Goddess Conference carries forward into the future.

People come and go over the years, and as we welcome new Conference priestesses and participants, we honour Conference Elders and all who have contributed over the years, as well as priestess sisters on whose shoulders we get the stand. For She changes everything She touches, and so also the Goddess Conference.

Part of our Goddess Conference community has grown up in, and with, the Conference, and certainly we have all grown through Her, these 25 years.

Many have found such a place of belonging, they want to become more involved, and step up to become part of the Melisa team, or into priestess roles, musicians, artists, speakers or ceremonialists.

In this 25th anniversary year we will be giving thanks to our beloved Elders, and now ancestors, of the Goddess Conference: Koko Newport, Lydia Ruyle, Lady Olivia and Julie Felix, as well as honour Kathy Jones as founder, and all the many people who have been a part of the weaving of the Goddess Conference, in a special celebration on the Sunday of our online programme.

It is our intention and honour to create the Earth Mother Goddess Conference, this magical portal into the lived experience of a Goddess Centred world, where all people who love or seek Her, are equally valued and welcomed, and all life is acknowledged as sacred.

Please come and join us in the ceremonies, inspiration and celebration this Lamas !

<https://goddessconference.com> for the full Fringe and Conference days program and all ticket information.

*Katinka Soetens and Marion van Eupen
Goddess Conference co-organisers
Priestesses of Avalon, of Brighde
and of Rhiannon,*

*www.magdalenmysteryschool.com
www.marionbrigantia.com*

Goddess Temple Teachings

Glastonbury Goddess Temple is committed to providing high quality Priestess, Goddess & Healing Trainings for those who wish to develop their connection to Goddess and to heal themselves within the Sacred Land of Avalon.

These courses will begin in person in Glastonbury or online depending on Government guidance on the Covid-19 pandemic

New Courses beginning Autumn 2020



Priestess/Priest of Avalon Training

with Priestesses of Avalon Luna Silver & Kathy Jones
(now in its 23rd year of teaching)

Priestess of Cerridwen Training

with Priestess of Cerridwen Bee Helygen



The Way of the Volva

Priestess of Freya Training

with Priestess of Freya Zindra Andersson



Wild Medicine Woman &

13 Moons Online Trainings

with Medicine Women Iris Lican & Lila Nuit



Soul Healing Training

with Soul Healer, Priestess of Avalon
Kathy Jones



For information on any of these Temple Teachings please go to www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk

Glastonbury Goddess Temple, 2-4 High Street,
Glastonbury, BA6 9DU

The Weave of the Great Mother Online film series introduced by Kathy Jones

With Priest/esses of Avalon Marga Nobell, Sarah Perini,
Aline Castell, Laura Ghianda, Luiza Frazao,
Freddie Finotto, Jana de Madrid and Maya Vasallo

Starting on 10th August 2020

The Weave of the Great Mother is an eight week learning opportunity, an invitation to open the doorway into a rich world of transformation within the Mystery of Goddess, as She appears in some of Her many forms.

Over eight weeks you will receive a one hour+ long presentation of information and sacred practices each week.

www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk/gatewaystogoddess/

Great Mother

If I had written this a few months ago it would have been very different. I would have spoken no doubt, about our Mother and the harvest. But we have had our usual pattern of festivals disrupted by Covid-19. I don't feel She started it. I don't see Goddess killing innocents to make a point. That's sounds more like old ideas about Jehovah. However, that does not mean we can't learn from it. One thing that became quickly important was nature. What started as an excuse to get out began to take people to places in their own town they had never visited before. Children were taken for walks, some for the first time for years. And nature seemed to respond to this increased interest. Without the noise of industry, planes, cars, etc. birdsong became more audible. Normally wary wild animals were seen more frequently.

It showed what could be achieved in a short time if we limited our activities. Some of this will change of course, as we, "get back to normal", but maybe going outside will become part of a routine for some. I hope this renewed interest in mother earth encourages some to live more sustainably and ethically. If the Earth is our mother, then we are all siblings. People cannot expect to act as the spoilt favourite child, at the expense of others. We saw this attitude in those who cleared the shelves of some foods. By now they are throwing some away. And, largely unintentionally, people in the developed countries are like that too, expecting things as a right.

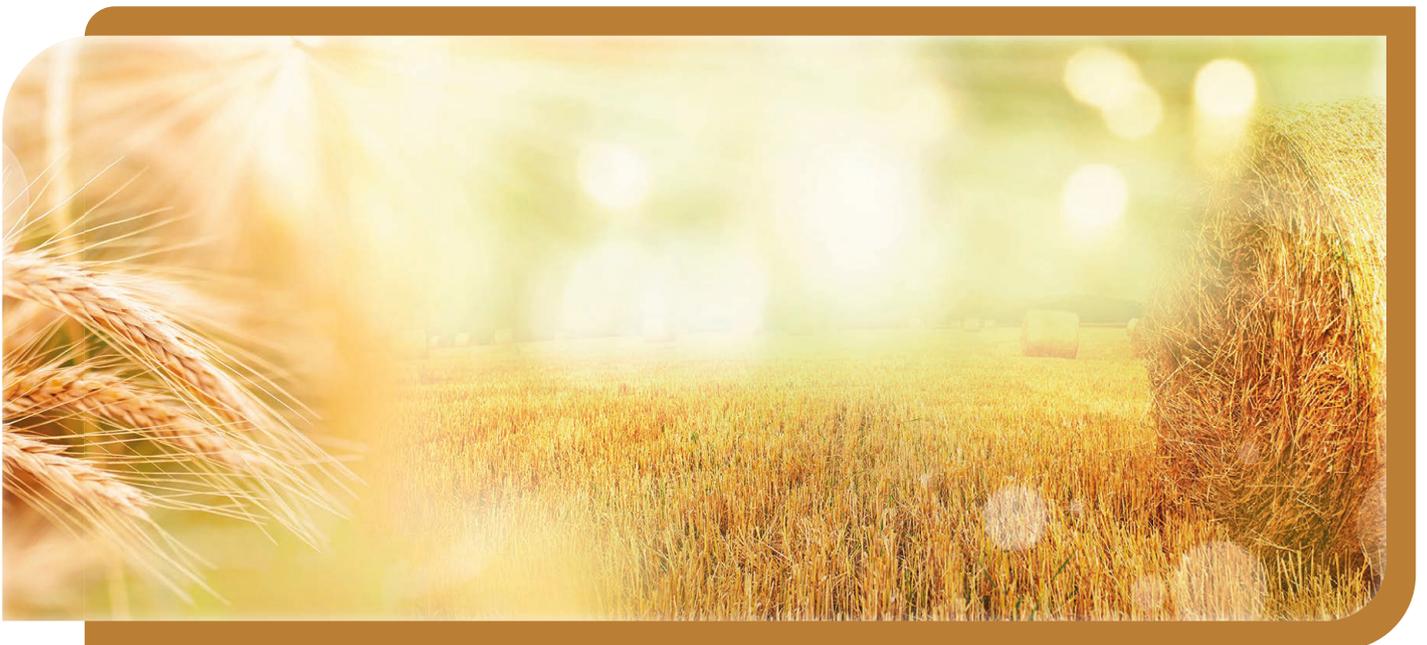
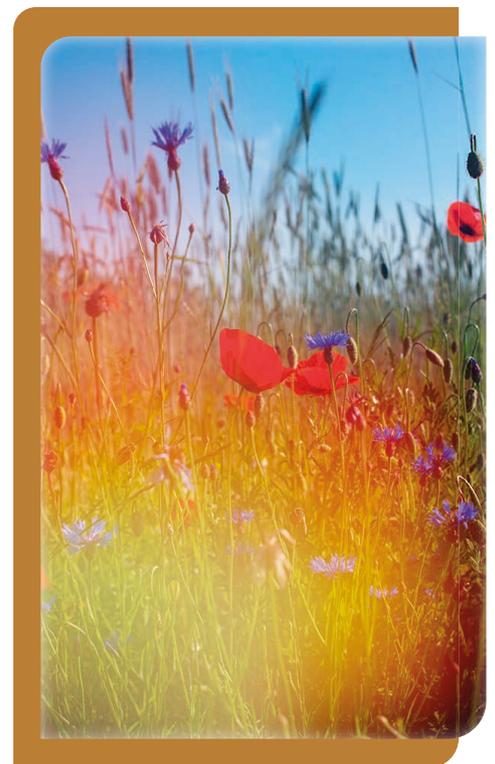
I know most of you reading this will be taking steps already, recycling, buying organic, Fair Trade, etc., but this needs to spread much more amongst the wider population, so it becomes second nature. People did without some things during lockdown, it needs to be kept up when

we, "go back to normal" because the Earth can't sustain normal. The importance of people rather than things has been brought home to us too. Some learned this because they sadly lost loved ones, but all of us missed seeing friends and relatives. Modern technology helps. Unlike the medieval peasant boarded up in their hovel, awaiting the Black Death we can stay in touch. The Cerridwen Crew have done two of their Dark Moon Rituals now on Zoom. One advantage of things like this is that those people, who for whatever reason couldn't attend the Temple have been able to join in. I hope this can continue in some form after restrictions have been lifted.

Sometimes even technology can't replace being with people. We miss a hug, someone holding our hand. We have had to refrain to protect others. Like you I have missed family, friends, circle sisters and brothers.

What lessons do we learn from Cerridwen's story, to help us during these strange times? One thing that strikes me is that there is no account of the animosity between Creirwy and Morfran. She doesn't appear to have used her looks and popularity with others to get one over her brother, and later she is spoken of as a great Queen. Cerridwen and Tegid clearly did not favour her over Morfran. We can assume therefore that our Mother does not 'play favourites' with us either. Cerridwen grows to love Taliesin, despite the unconventional method of conceiving him, Her love is for all beings. She grieves though, for those who don't care about their human siblings or the home she has provided. And in these strange times we need to listen to what our Mother says to help us find the answers for ourselves.

Jacqueline Kirwan – Priestess of Cerridwen



MOTHER BRIDGET

I follow You,
to the fertile lands,
where my steps
synchronise with the resounding
rhythm of your heartbeat.
The place of creation,
where you show me how to allow
trust to grow into abundance.
You, who are the waving fields
of golden grain at harvest time ;
the flowing light of your cosmic cow ;
nourishment for my soul.
You invite me into your loving embrace
which unlocks all the lost places inside :
the times that I could not find You
when I did not know of You.
There, You light your hearth fire,
hospitable and warm
and still I linger on the threshold.
There, You feed me
from Your healing cauldron,
the true medicine that comes
from unconditional love
and still I wonder if I am deserving.
Here You touch my heart
softly and tenderly ;
and as I meet you
Mother Bridget
I welcome myself
home.

Marion Brigantia
Tutor of *Brighde-Brigantia* training
www.marionbrigantia.com



Priestess/Priest of Mother Earth – 2 Spiral Training with Priestess Rachel Harris



Mother Earth is calling to us deeply in our souls. She loves us and we are Her children. Right now She is telling us that it is time to connect deeply with Her to feel the depth of this love, connection, holding, grounding, healing and presence

Spiral One: Eight Circles
(5 in Glastonbury 3 online)
begins 19th-21st March 2022

<https://goddess temple teachings.co.uk/>
Priestess of Mother Earth/
Glastonbury Goddess Temple, 2-4 High St,
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Priest-esses of Cerridwen

2 Year Training

Healer - Seer - Wisdom Keeper

Correspondence Course
3 dates in Avalon and visit
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Online Option with
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please visit or
contact Bee on
bee@cerridwen.co.uk/07906098284
goddess temple teachings.co.uk/



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Celebrant for all Rites of Passage
Sacred Listener ∞ Soul Guide
∞ Cariatid Enaid ∞ Elemental Diviner ∞
Ceremonialist ∞ Herb Wise ∞
Crystal Healer
Tree Spirit Guardian ∞



BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD