

Goddess Temple News

Imbolc 2022
Donations Welcome



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Imbolc edition of Goddess Temple News!

A new year has just begun and I would like to thank you for your support for our flourishing Goddess Temple here in the heart of Avalon, the sacred land of Glastonbury.

This year marks an important milestone for the Temple: 20 years of service to Goddess and the Goddess-loving community!

From Imbolc onwards, throughout the entire 2022, we are going to celebrate this important anniversary calling in the artists, the priestesses and priests, the Madrons and supporters to create art exhibitions, ceremonies and events for this special occasion. In this time of Imbolc, we are dreaming and co-creating the structure of what our year of celebration will be like. Our cauldron of creativity is bubbling ready to manifest the love and the wishes that have been nourished in our hearts during this winter time.

In this season's edition of Goddess Temple News, you can find a taste of what this 2022 will be like.

We hope you enjoy the rich pickings of this season's Goddess Temple News. If you love and support the Glastonbury Goddess Temple why not become a Temple Madron and donate to the Temple? Our donations help us to bring Goddess alive in Her world for thousands of people worldwide through ceremony, healing,



ritual and training in Her love. There are differing levels of Madrons to suit every budget and you receive seasonal monthly gifts from the Temple and a membership portal.

Visit www.goddesstemple.co.uk for more information.

With Imbolc blessings from Giorgia Farano, editor of Goddess Temple News, and the rest of the Goddess Temple Team.



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GLASTONBURY GODDESS TEMPLE 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF CELEBRATION



Imbolc 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the first Temple Ceremony which took place in the Goddess Temple in the Courtyard of the Glastonbury Experience. We have decided to mark this wonderful 20 years of bringing Goddess alive in Her world again by holding a year-long celebration, bringing renewed ceremonies, gatherings, Goddess events, art exhibitions, music, poetry, storytelling and dance.

We want to express our gratitude to all the many people who over the years played their part in opening the Temple to the public and who have helped to expand our Goddess work in the world, creating the Goddess Hall, Goddess Temple Gifts and Goddess House. We invite all these wonderful supporters to come to special anniversary events

The vision for a Goddess Temple in Glastonbury first came in August 1999 when Mike and I were on holiday in Greece after the third Glastonbury Goddess Conference and took a trip to Mount Olympus, the famed home of the God/desses. At the foot of the mountain are the remains of the town of Dion where there are several Goddess Temples, with a partially intact Temple to Isis. As I stood in this ruin my heart felt so sad that wherever we went in the western world the Temples to Goddess are always in ruins.

It was then that I decided that when I came home I would create with others a present day living Goddess Temple in Glastonbury. When we returned I spoke to friends about the idea of

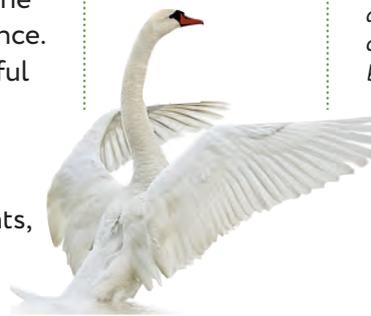
creating a Goddess Temple and called a meeting of those I thought might be interested in supporting the idea. Over the next few months different groupings of people met to further the idea of the Goddess Temple. They included as far as I remember(!) – Leona Graham, Sally Pullinger, Geraldine and Idris (Brian) Charles, Colette Barnard, Ark Redwood, Rachel Houghton, Rose Flint, Sandra Brant, Jill Smith, Sue Oxley, Irene Sheppard, Alison Waite, Jana, Rachael Clyne and some others. We spent many hours talking about what it might mean to have our own temple, how we would fund it, how we would staff it, how we would decorate it, etc. We opened a bank account and several of us set up monthly standing order donations to the Temple. We decided to hold an Inaugural Goddess Temple Ceremony and Picnic on Monday 29th May 2000. As the poster said,

Join the Goddess-loving women and men of Glastonbury at the inaugural Goddess Temple Ceremony and Picnic. A group of people hold a vision to create a Goddess Temple in Glastonbury which will be open to the public as a sacred space where the Lady of Avalon is honoured. We are in the process of generating energy, gathering people and raising funds. Until we actually have a building of our own we have decided to begin holding regular Goddess Temple ceremonies in different places in Glastonbury to help bring the vision into reality. This is our first!

During the ceremony we will sow seeds in a special tub to symbolise the seeds of the future Goddess Temple we are growing. We will also be creating a collage of our visions for the Goddess Temple.

For this first ceremony we decorated the Miracles Room in the Courtyard of the Glastonbury Experience as a Goddess Temple, and held it open so that people could come and pray in the space. Lots of people came and joined the ceremony in which we sowed seeds for the future Temple, added our contributions to a Temple manifestation collage, prayed and sang to the Goddess, ate strawberries and drank champagne. Our first ceremony was a great success.

Over the coming months the seeds in the tub grew and flowered and we began to create temporary pop-up Goddess Temples for each of the seasonal festivals in the Miracles Room or the Georges(Avalon) Room in the Glastonbury Experience. We used the large wicker Goddesses created for the Goddess Conference as a focus for our devotion. We would spend half a day decorating a space, hold it open to the public for three or four days for prayer and meditation, and hold a public ceremony to celebrate the Goddesses of each season. At the end of the three days we would take it all down again, put the Goddess into storage and store the materials and decorations. Mike Jones, the management of the Glastonbury Experience,



the Isle of Avalon Foundation and the Glastonbury Trust, supported us throughout this time as they do to this day, making it possible for us to develop our new venture. It would have been much more difficult without their help and generosity, and we are very grateful to them.

In the summer of 2001 we heard that the old Bridget Chapel in the Glastonbury Experience was to close due to continued misuse. The Library of Avalon was to move into this larger ground floor space leaving the Ark, a large room on the first floor, empty and available for a Goddess Temple. We asked if we could rent it for a Goddess Temple. It took several months as building works took over in the various different venues, before we could move into our own space. We received the keys at winter solstice and began our own renovation and decoration works, painting the space and carpeting it, in shades of lavender and violet. Lots of people came to help and the energy built. We opened the Goddess Temple to the public with a special Opening Ceremony at Imbolc 2002 in which we dedicated the Temple to Goddess as Lady of Avalon.

It has seemed important to us to dedicate the Goddess Temple primarily to the Lady of Avalon because we live in Glastonbury and in Avalon. We are reclaiming the ancient idea that particular Goddesses are directly connected to the land on which we live. We also honour the Nine Morgens and all the Goddesses on Bridannia's Sacred Wheel of the Year. Over the first year at each of the eight festivals we anchored the Lady more deeply into Her temple. We have continued to do this to this day and Her energy is present in Her Temple now.

On June 18th 2003 after months of discussion and paperwork, we were formally recognised by the Registry of Places of Worship, as an official Place of Worship. We believe that we are the first formally recognised indigenous British Goddess Temple in Europe for perhaps 1500 years.

The Goddess Temple is a not for profit social enterprise and is supported in large part by donations from Goddess-loving people. The Temple holds a very special place in the hearts of many people in Glastonbury and world-wide. Over the last twenty years many hundreds of people have given donations, have helped create and attended ceremonies, have held voluntary and paid positions within the Temple. We are deeply grateful for everyone's participation and support for our Goddess community. Thank you!

The beliefs of this Goddess community given to the Registry of Places of Worship are as follows:

1. We believe in the Great Goddess, who is the One and the Many, who is immanent and transcendent, personal and impersonal, constant and changing, local and universal, within and without all of creation, who manifests Herself through the cycle of the seasons and the Wheel of the Year.
2. We believe that the Goddess manifests and communicates Herself through the whole of Her Nature and the sacred land, through visions and dreams, senses and experiences, imagination, ceremony and prayer. We believe that no form of words can ever encompass Her.



3. As the Goddess People of Avalon we believe in the Goddess who is Lady of Avalon, as She expresses Herself through the landscape, mythology and culture of the Isle of Avalon and in Glastonbury.

The great thing about our Goddess Temple is that as with Goddess spirituality, there are no rules as to what we can and cannot do in the Goddess Temple. There is no book that tells us what we must believe, what is sanctioned and what is forbidden. We are free to worship the Goddess in any way that we choose within the laws of the land in which we live, and what we feel to be right. We are free to explore and express our spirituality together. **Please join us for our 20th Anniversary celebrations!**

Kathy Jones, Co-Founder and Creative Director, Glastonbury Goddess Temple

An Imbolc Blessing

Maiden Nolava is stirring amidst our darkest slumber
Maiden Nolava, how I love you
It is time to awaken
Our dear lady maiden
For it is time to move to the beat therein
That little glow, that spark from within
The maiden brings our darkness through.
The candle flame in the dark
As sun beams upon a lifeless view
Illuminating the inner spark
Dawn for chambers of sleeping tombs
Awakening senses, and eternal wombs.
Her illuminated swan, sails upon
The serpent of earth, granting newness and birth.
Flutters within the womb of she
Giver of life steps forth from thee
Out of darkness and into the light
Brigid steps forth, white wisdom and insight.
I honour you maiden and welcome you
As you breathe your breath upon the land
Laying new green with your hand
Come in! Brigid welcome come in!
Like snow drops of bells and the sun slowly swells.
May all lives prosper in the gifts that you offer.
And may your inspiration be blessings and healings therein
And let blossoms flourish in the garden of our deep welled mind.
Great Lady Brigid
You offer nourishment in your seed
To the life you may breed
Giver of life, jewel from the night
Radiant, glow in all our light
We hail to thee. Blessed be.

Jennifer Murphy, Priestess of Avalon in Training

THE NINE SACRED TREES OF THE WHEEL OF AVALON AND BRIDANNIA – WILLOW AND HAZEL WOMAN



Continuing with our journey around the wheel of the nine sacred trees of Avalon and Bridannia we move to the Northeast at Imbolc, meeting with Willow Woman. She who stands with Brighde, Maiden Nolava, Swan Woman and Morgen Thitis at the time of quickening, new beginnings and the first breath after the pause of the stillness of winter.

Willow grows prolifically around the sacred isle of Glastonbury/Avalon and the surrounding wetlands of the Somerset Levels. Willow growing in this watery land has the fluidity and flexibility of water. It can be bent, woven, and guided into shapes without snapping,

Willow contains fiery life force that is retained even after the wood is cut. I once created a dream web that began to form leaves even though it had been cut, twisted into a hoop, and hung on a wall. In our Avalonian tradition Brighde the maiden walks the land with her white rod awakening all that she touches. At Imbolc cut and make a willow wand. Walk the land aligning yourself with the quickening tides, empowering dreams drawn from the stillness. Create a hoop for a dream web – weave threads with intention and prayers, calling your dreams into manifestation.

Babies' cradles were traditionally woven from willow, and coffins can be made of willow too – holding the soul through threshold transitions between worlds and protecting boundaries as the willows of the Somerset Levels do for the sacred isle of Avalon

In the East at Spring Equinox, we meet with Hazel Woman. She who stands with Arthur, Graine, Eostre, Ostara, Nolava of Fire and Morgen Cliton. It is springtime and the land is lush with every shade of green. The sap rises and the fire and light return.

Hazel shimmers in sunlight and moonlight. The enchanted woodland hazel grove on Dundon Hill



at full moon is truly a wonder to behold. Hazel is the wood used for divining water and dragon lines in the earth. You can make a divination set utilizing this quality to enhance your ability to see and illuminate that which is elusive or hidden.

Hazel poles grow long and straight especially in denser woodland where they are seeking the light. You can cut Hazel knowing that she benefits from regular coppicing. The more she's cut the more she grows, like a good immune system. She provides poles for door and window curtains, holding strong boundaries for your home. You can make a good sturdy staff for stamina, steady step and finding your way. I like to make beads from a hazel branch adding amber to enhance life force and encourage a strong immune system. A hazel branch that has been constricted by honeysuckle into a spiral twist is said to understand suffering and to be able to find the remedy. Hazel is also a good wood for broom and knife handles – strong, straight, and definite in character.

At Beltane we shall continue our journey around the wheel, honouring the nine sacred trees, meeting with Hawthorn Woman and Oak Woman. Blessed Be

Luna Silver, Priestess of Avalon and course tutor of the first and second spirals of the Priestess of Avalon training.
Visit www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk for more information.

Goddess Temple Treasure
Every Friday at 7.30pm

Come and Join our Priestesses of Avalon for ceremonial evenings at the Goddess Temple

Every week we will share guided journeys, drumming and singing for healing, release and empowerment.

Donation to the Glastonbury Goddess Temple

GODDESS SOUL SEASONAL WISDOM



As I write this in Glastonbury in the beginning of January we're still waiting for winter, it's been crazily mild here and the buds are starting to shoot up, birds beginning to nest, they think that spring is on the way.

I don't know about you but the energies feel like that too. I feel as if I'm being surged forward into new projects, jobs, ideas and plans. These last few weeks of January should be a time of dreaming, visioning, peeling back and releasing the last of the old energies; a good time for cleansing juicing, some massage TLC and checking that the body has rested and revitalised itself enough to be able to cope with the new beginnings that Imbolc brings. So do make sure you've allowed yourself this time, to clear the clutter as winter is still coming...

Imbolc is traditionally a time of honouring the ewes milk, that nourishes the young lambs, of giving thanks and gratitude for what we have, that even though we're still in winter and Bride's white mantle may be covering the land new shoots are emerging through the snow. So continue that TLC and deep self-care, gestate those seeds of ideas, visions, create dreaming boards, tend to yourself and your dreams. Your Goddess Soul wisdom is still calling you inward to heal your inner childwounds or make friends with her/him/them, remember what it is, that your child self loves to do, and gift yourself time for play dates, get creative — paint, draw, sew. Include your creative soul in whatever you're doing and listen for the whispers, the inspiration the deep knowing of your creative Soul-child essence brings, and wishes to share for you, as you continue to shed the old skins, of old limiting behaviours, and programming, making space for the new.

Then as we move towards the Spring Equinox the Star Maiden Ostara stirs the land, awakening those spring fires, the green shoots of new beginnings surge towards the budding, stirring the kundalini of Earth Mother encouraging a birth spurt of

new life and energy. She sheds her light onto all that's not in balance in your life especially around your yin yang balance, do you rest and nurture your yin deep feminine nature, giving yourself time to journey within and resource yourself from your deep soul wisdom? Or are you constantly on the go? Busy doing? Ordering? Controlling? Caught up in the patriarchal system of trying to be more masculine, productive yang? Take time to reflect drop, take a deep breath, a pause and listen to your Goddess Soul Wisdom within, check that what your doing is in alignment with your deep inner knowing of your soul path or is it a distraction? To hide the gaping wounds and pain of your wild maiden whose not been given the time to be her free wild natural self to run in the woods, beaches, valleys to explore the inner and outer realms? Find your balance or create it, heal your wounds. Claim your authentic Soulfire presence, follow your Soul Priestess path to explore the inner essence of yourself and empower yourself to be more fully who you are, shine your Goddess Soul Wisdom into the world and inspire others to shine too. The time is now you are the one you've been waiting for.

Check out Anna Saqqara's ongoing Goddess Soul Wisdom zoom guided journeys and Soul Priestess Pathways Virtual and in-person retreats starting Easter, if you wish to nurture and empower your authentic self, priestess/priest — wise woman/man within.

You are also welcome to come to Goddess House for some TLC Goddess Healing, Massage and Soul Essence Healing, your worth it!

www.priestessannasaqqara.com



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IMBOLC TO BELTANE ASTOLOGY

We begin the season of Imbolc with a New Moon in the sign of Aquarius, the Goddess of Star Fire! As the land awakens, new ideas and inspirations pour upon us from the crystalline chalice of the Water Bearer. This Lunation will reawaken the Saturnia/Urania square, which continues to be a key astrological theme throughout 2022. The tension between security and freedom is likely to continue to permeate the collective, alongside issues of economics, regulations, revolutions and restrictions implemented through technology.

Mercuria the Messenger stations direct on the 4th of February in conjunction with Plutonia in Capricorn. What has been hidden or held back since mid-January is now illuminated and able to move forward. From now until April 29th we have a period of all Planets moving direct. Now is the time to begin to take action towards manifesting your big visions. A fierce and fiery Leo Full moon rises on the 16th of February, stoking the flames of creativity, and inviting us to burn away the dross of the old year.

Two days later, on the 18th of February, Sol enters Pisces, the final sign of the Zodiac. Pisces season is a time of soul cleansing, healing and dreaming as we prepare to cross the equinox threshold. One of the most beneficent New Moons of the year rises in the sign of the Celestial Fish Mother on the 2nd of March. Sitting in conjunction with Her own ancient ruler, Jupitera the Golden Goddess, this New Moon invites us to wash away old sorrow and grief and remember how unconditionally loved we are by Goddess. It offers us a glimpse of our own



divine self, the part of us that is able to surrender to the magic and mystery of the universe.

Lady Venus and Mars the Warriress come together to begin a new cycle at 0 degrees of Aquarius on the 7th of March. This is a time of revolutionising the way that we relate to each other. To form new connections and communities that serve the evolution of the planet. On the 18th of March the Virgo Full Moon, the last lunation of the astrological year illuminates the early spring skies offering us the opportunity to purify, detoxify and prepare in practical ways for rebirth as the wheel turns to Ostara.

Sol enters Aries on the 20th of March initiating a new zodiacal cycle! Although we are now in the time of Fire, the Cosmos draws us back into the watery depths as Jupitera in Pisces closes in on a once in a lifetime conjunction with Neptunia on April the 8th. This will be the first time both rulers of Pisces have come together in their home sign since 1856.

This conjunction comes to awaken our compassion, faith and trust. It reminds us that beauty and art are pathways to Goddess, awakening the muse within us all. The shadow side of the incoming tsunami of Piscean energy can bring illusion and delusions, inviting us to clear the final distortions of the Piscean age.

Pisces also traditionally rules over viruses and imprisonment/isolation, making it increasingly important to enhance our psychic and physical immunity at this time. The shadow side of the incoming tsunami of Piscean energy can bring illusion and delusions, inviting us to clear the final distortions of the Piscean age. As we move towards Beltane, Venus and Mars will also enter Pisces, encouraging us to open our hearts ever more deeply to feel the oneness of all of creation as we move through this period.

Maria Jones is a Priestess of Avalon, and course tutor for the Silver Spiral Star Priestess Training, which next begins in March 2022.

Visit www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk for more information!

SILVER SPIRAL
Two Year Star Priestess/Priest Training
in Goddess-centred Astrology
with **Maria Jones, Priestess Astrologer**

Illustration of the Silver Spiral by Anne Braddon

Interactive Online First Spiral: Eight Circles between
26th/27th March 2022 to 4th/5th Feb 2023
Info: www.goddess temple teachings.co.uk
Glastonbury Goddess Temple, 2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU



A SHINING EXAMPLE: *THE GODDESS LUMINARY LEADERSHIP WHEEL: A POST-PATRIARCHAL PARADIGM*, BY LYNNE SEDGMORE

REVIEWED BY GERALDINE CHARLES

Do we need leaders? Quite a few people I've come across in the Goddess movement during the last twenty years or so have been strongly opposed to any kind of leadership – but why? I suspect this is a holdover from early second-wave feminism: after all, those pioneer consciousness-raising groups didn't need much in the way of structure. Unfortunately, however, that led our groups to underestimate what such a lack of framework might mean when we began to move on to activism or, indeed in any direction that required more than listening and the pursuit of insight.

“Going down the waterfall”

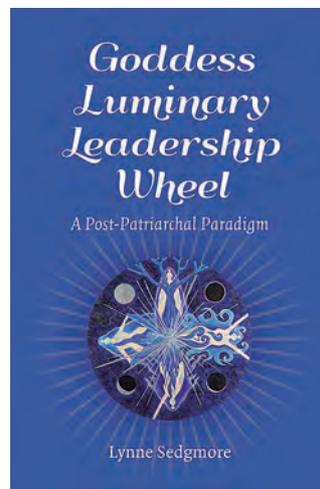
I heard the waterfall metaphor many years ago, from a friend who had recently joined a group of women activists. It all felt chaotic to her and for a long time she struggled to understand the group dynamics and even what – if anything! – had been agreed in meetings. Then she became friends with some of the group members and suddenly – whoosh! Kim quickly realised that it was those very friendships that allowed her sudden ability actively to participate in the group and influence decisions. Not every “unofficial” leader ever becomes aware of her power in this way.

I've banged on about the problems a lack of structure can cause for decades, so was delighted to see Lynne reference Jo Freeman's *The Tyranny of Structurelessness*¹ and go on to concur that denial of any leaders can camouflage where the power really lies in a group, making challenges or changes of direction almost impossible to achieve.

A new paradigm

When I first heard about Lynne's Luminary Leadership training a couple of years ago it didn't take much thought to realise what an extraordinary – and necessary – path the training offers, one of many such routes to achieving the end of patriarchy and moving towards the vision of the MotherWorld². And let's face it, no-one who has been alive and taking notice during the last few years can possibly deny how essential this kind of pioneering work is.

Workplaces, for example, can be truly horrible places right now, with or without Covid-19. Workplaces where bullying is an everyday occurrence. Workplaces where gaslighting is considered a great management tool. Toxic leadership is everywhere I look. Could the new paradigm Lynne describes, this new view of leadership in combination with Goddess spirituality really work?



Lynne's book helps us to see yet more ways that patriarchy has limited us, not just those we know only too well, but also how we can pursue our own dreams without becoming part of the problem. It also becomes clear that attributes often seen as “feminine” are of fundamental importance in this new style, with the use of intuition as a prime example. But there is far more to this new paradigm than simply saying we should value such feminine attributes more.

Please don't be put off if, like me, you don't think of yourself as a current or aspiring leader! There is plenty in this book for everyone interested in how we move forward towards our goals. Lynne quickly makes it clear that the very word “leader” has meant something quite

different within patriarchy to the ideas and suggestions she puts forward here. “Luminary” is Lynne's preferred term for leader and it's easy to see why it's so useful to replace a word with connotations of masculinity with one suggesting, as Lynne writes: “a person who inspires and influences others... also... someone who illuminates”.

I found the Luminary Leadership Wheel fascinating. For me it seems to condense all of Lynne's teachings to the wheel's centre, to “Illuminatrix” in that singular point of – I think the only word here is love – but then to explore out in each direction, towards the archetypes with their ways of knowing and of being leaderful. A path far less linear and quite unlike any management training course I've ever seen, but one which spirals between possibilities and strategies.

It was also great to see some of Kat Shaw's wonderful paintings being given the showing they so richly deserve!

This isn't just a book to read, digest and set aside: a fully interactive guide to excellence in leadership is here, allowing anyone who wishes to follow along the full power of Lynne's decades of experience and learning. But that isn't all, there are also links to online resources including videos, songs, chants and even labyrinth drawing instructions!

One of my personal measures of any book of this kind is the bibliography, and Lynne's first-rate one means I've come away not only with a feeling of excitement at the many books I now look forward to reading, but also motivated afresh at the thought that maybe more things can change than I once dared to dream of.

1. www.jofreeman.com/joreen/tyranny.htm
2. See <https://goddess temple.co.uk/motherworld/>



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Nexus 3: Morgen Priestess of Avalon 2024

For more information on this course please visit our website:
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Goddess Temple Teachings