

# NEWS LETTER

**£1** - to cover printing costs and small donation to temple

## Upcoming Events

### Yule Ritual and Celebration

Sunday 17th December from 12 noon. Get ready for Yule by joining our celebrations.

### 12th Night Vigil

Saturday 6th January: 9pm to late. Bring pillows and blankets to lie down and enjoy storytelling, music and poetry as well as times of quiet as we hold vigil through to midnight. £5 (includes a hot drink).

## Regular Groups

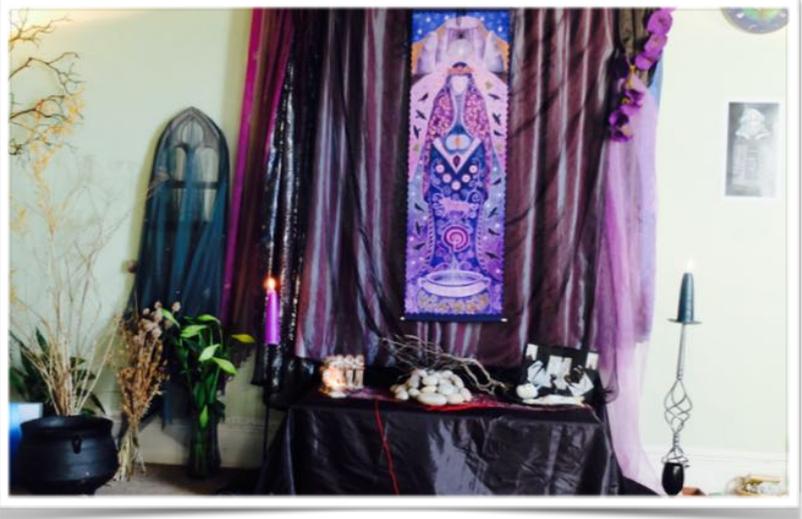
### Tarot Study Group

Thursday afternoons, 2pm-4pm - A series of workshops looking at Tarot in detail - running from 2nd November till end of January. £2.

### Moon Magic Meet Up

Saturday afternoons 3.30-4.30pm - a sharing circle and ceremony for creatives, light workers and magical minds.

Please ring Airy Fairy 0114 2492090 to book your place on the above events.



## Samhain

As the leaves fall and the nights get shorter, we prepare for winter. The Sun God is dead and the Flower Goddess is mourning. But in the hidden depth of the underworld death works its alchemy of transformation. Imperceptibly it decomposes and regenerates so that the litter of leaves and debris become the fertile ground that will nourish next year's growth. The veils between the worlds are thin at this time of the year and life and death are but opposite poles of the same continuously regenerating life-force. Samhain is a time to honour the dead and to contemplate the mysteries of life, death and regeneration.

It is a time to turn inwards and in the depth and silence of our souls we confront our shadows and our own mortality.

Join our Temple Melissas between 12.30 and 1.30 to experience these energies in quiet contemplation.



*Temple Melissas*



Our Temple Melissas are the people who hold space in the Temple between 12.30 and 1.30 every day. It is a delightful job to do. If you would like to be part of the Melissa team please leave a message for Ann Staniland or Brian Harrison

*Manchester Goddess Temple*

On 14th October, Brian and Ali from the Sheffield Goddess Temple, and our friend Daniel from the Nottingham Goddess Temple joined Amanda and Sandra to help them set up the very first Manchester Goddess Temple open day. This was held in the gorgeous Alexandra Park. Please see the 'Manchester Goddess Temple' facebook page



*Goddesses of the Northern Wheel*

On our Northern Goddess Wheel, the Goddess for this season is

The other Goddess on our Northern wheel are four river Goddesses...

**Don;** East, Spring Equinox. The Goddess Don is an extremely ancient progenitor Mother Goddess, cognate with the Irish Danu or the Gaulish Goddess Donau (as in the Danube)

**Derwena,** flows South; summer Solstice / Litha.

There are several rivers in Britain named Derwent, which means 'Oak river'.

**Rhibelisama,** flows West, Autumn Equinox

The prefix 'Rhi' (as in Rhiannon, Mor-ri-gan, Ard-Ri etc) means royal and 'beli' refers to the sun or to brightness.

**Edene** (Rivers Air / Ure and Eden), North, Winter Solstice

and for the three other cross quarters festivals

**Bride,** Imbolc, February the 1st

who is Brigantia / Brighid in her maiden form.

**Nemetona** - Beltane, May Day

Goddess of the Nemeton or Sacred Grove.

**Gwenith** – Lammas, Lughnasadh or Yorkshire Day, August the 1st

Gwenith is the Brittonic name for wheat, meaning 'Blessed' and 'Golden'.

... thanks to Lynne Harling, who is our expert on and creator of the Northern Goddess Wheel.

*Poetry Page*

**The Secret That the Open Heart Unlocks**

I sat before the altar of the Goddess with stillness and the air around me and was alone

I looked up at the images on the altar and took a deep breath, and another  
And with every breath felt myself become a little more calm and connected

I let the air around me enter my lungs  
Fresh clean air  
With a sigh I let the air out, relaxing deeper

The temple was still as I sat there alone

"Tell me, stillness" I said "what is this place, and what secrets does it hold  
When you are alone here with the altar and the air "

"Oh my child" said the stillness "there is only one secret  
And only an open heart can unlock it"

"This is a place of peace, calm and stillness  
Where you bring your curiosity and your dreams  
Your troubles and tears, your hopes and fears.

Be here with an open heart and allow only what is true for you  
To speak to you and guide you.

But don't think that peace needs to be passive and detached  
Because our hearts are always full of feeling  
And below the surface, the forces that shape our future  
Are always at work, stirring the cauldron of change.

Peace is the strength to breath and feel  
And take the next breath  
And we all have that strength

And know that whatever strength and peace you find here  
You can take with you  
She will always be with you  
Holding you in Her arms"

"She'?" I said to the stillness "'in Her arms'? What do you mean?"

Ah, said the stillness, that is the secret that the open heart unlocks

For the peace that I speak of  
Is the Goddess  
of who the images on this alter  
are just a pale reflection of a distant shadow  
For this peace is all she is, and ALL, she is.

I sat before the altar of the Goddess with stillness and the air around me and we were not alone.

### *Samhain Bone Bundles*

As part of our Samhain ceremony we will be making 'bone bundles' like this...



Our ancient ancestors would lovingly wrap the remains of their honoured dead with herbs and precious personal affects and give them to the Earth by pressing them into cracks and crevices in the rocks as a form of sky burial.

At our Samhain rituals we make our bone bundles, which hold the names of our loved ones and small personal objects, wrapped in muslin, decorated and blessed..



These can be taken home or can be taken out into the peaks by our Priestesses and placed on rock crevasses to honour and preserve their memory.

The aims of all of our temple rituals are...

- ★ to celebrate and connect with the time of year
- ★ to involve everyone as much as possible
- ★ to be meaningful and invite reflection
- ★ to have fun and make friends

we always welcome feedback on ways to make our rituals better.



Visit our 'Sheffield Goddess Temple' page  
on Facebook for current news and events