

Transcript

Glastonbury Goddess

Dr Marion Bowman:

Going to Glastonbury can mean different things to different people. And while the highlight of some people's summer is going to Glastonbury Festival, for others it's the Glastonbury Goddess Conference. Many are convinced that Glastonbury was an ancient Celtic centre of goddess worship. And since early in the 20th century a number of people have been intent on reclaiming Glastonbury for the goddess.

The annual Glastonbury Goddess Conference founded in 1996 has been important in the consolidation and celebration of goddess spirituality. Not only in Glastonbury itself but it's also become influential in Europe and beyond. The five-day annual conference has become an important festival and celebration for a great variety of goddess loving women and men. A forum for creativity in relation to goddess related music, material culture, ritual, and myth.

Much has happened since the first Glastonbury Goddess Conference was held in 1996. The Glastonbury Goddess Temple opened in 2002 becoming the first goddess temple to be officially registered as a place of worship in Britain, in 2003.

The temple has provided a year-round focus for celebration and pilgrimage and it is now licensed to carry out legal weddings in the goddess and pagan traditions. The first official pagan establishment in England to be granted a license to conduct heterosexual and same sex marriages.

There is a long-term training programme for Priestesses and Priests of Avalon. And close to the temple is the goddess giftshop which both helps to support the temple financially and gives an outlet for Glastonbury's goddess related art and artefacts.

During the Glastonbury Goddess Conference, Glastonbury's Town Hall is the hub of events suitably made over for the occasion with a number of activities, talks, ceremonies and workshops held there. And also, since 2008 events are held in the Goddess Hall, formerly the Church Hall of St Benedict's Anglican Church.

The goddess procession has been a consistent and important aspect of the goddess conference. An opportunity for the delegates to make a public statement of their devotion to the goddess and to physically reclaim Glastonbury for the goddess.

During the annual Glastonbury Goddess Conference in July 2016 there was a seven-hour pilgrimage through the sacred landscape of Avalon. Walking upon the body of the Lady of Avalon in her landscape.