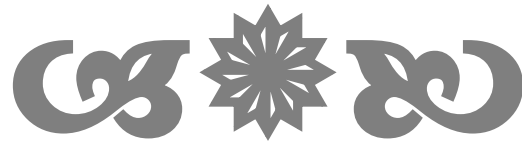


Paganism



Nature and Practice



Chris Wood

A photograph of a stone well with a wooden bucket hanging from a pulley, set against a background of rough stone walls.

Paganism

Rooted in the Earth



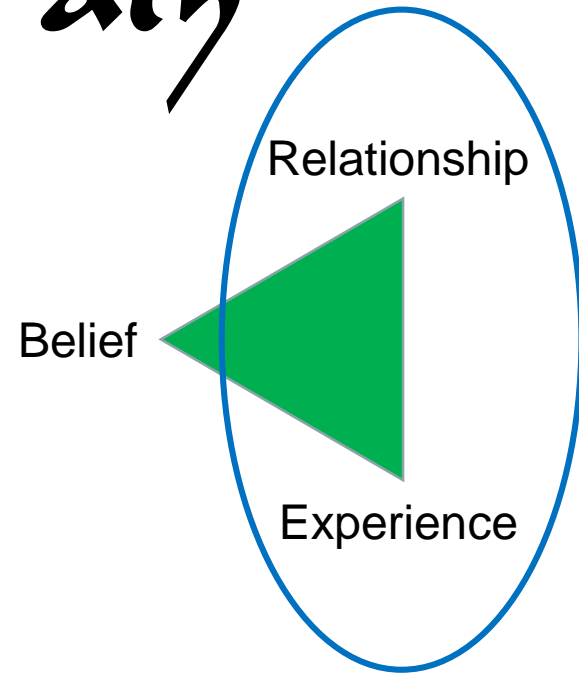
Paganism

Reaching for the Sky

The Pagan Path

Beliefs

- Polytheism and animism/pantheism
- Deities, heroes, Fair Folk, *etc.*
- Knowledge (*gnosis*) over faith
- Indigeneity: the land is key – everywhere is the Holy Land (but some places are more powerful than others)



The Pagan Path

Practice

- Devotion / honouring of deities, *etc.*
- Magic & divination
- Ritual in small groups or alone
- No 'places of worship' (except sacred sites), but social moots and other gatherings
- Festivals – Wheel of the Year



The Wheel of the Year



Samhain

Yule

Imbolc



**Autumn
Equinox**

**Wheel of
the Year**

**Spring
Equinox**

Lammas

**Mid-
summer**

Beltane



The Lunar Cycle



Major Traditions

Witchcraft

- Wicca – Gardnerian, Alexandrian, generic
- Traditional Witchcraft
- Natural Magic / Hedge-witchcraft
- Overlaps with other religions – dual observance not uncommon – and with Ceremonial Magic



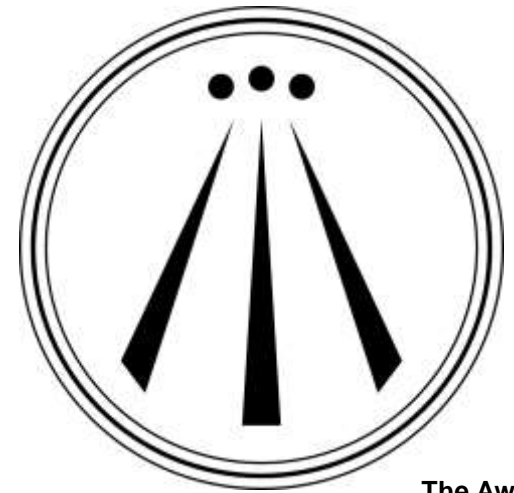
The Pentacle



Major Traditions

Druidry

- Various Orders
- Overlaps with Christian Druidry and with Witchcraft



The Awen



Dolmen, St. David's, Wales

Major Traditions

Heathenry

- Ásatrú (Norse)
- Anglo-Saxon



Trundholm Sun Wagon. Picture: J. Lee, Nationalmuseet Danmark CC-BY-SA



Sutton Hoo Sceptre
(replica)



Mjölnir - Thor's Hammer

Major Traditions

Shamanism

- Aspects in Witchcraft, Druidry and Heathenry
- Inspired by traditional cultures worldwide



Siberian Shaman's
Drum, Polar Museum,
Cambridge

Major Traditions

Classical – Roman, Greek, Egyptian (Kemetic)



Minerva at Aquae Sulis, Bath



Statue of Hekate,
Fitzwilliam Museum,
Cambridge



Hathor's face on a pot fragment, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Major Traditions

Goddess Spirituality

- Feminist celebratory tradition
- Aspects derived from Wicca



The 'Venus' of Willendorf,
Natural History Museum,
Vienna

Major Traditions

Ceremonial Magic(k)

- Temple-based 'High' Magic
- Overlaps with Christian magic
- *E.g.* the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, Ordo Templi Orientis, Chaos Magick...



Roots of Paganism

Hermetic and Rosicrucian Magic

- Alchemy
- Hermeticism
- Christian & antiquarian
Druid orders
- Freemasonry
- The Hermetic Order of
the Golden Dawn



John Dee, c.1594, artist unknown, Ashmolean Museum

Roots of Paganism

Historic Witchcraft

- Cunning craft
- Natural/folk Magic
- Legacy and imagery of the Witch Trials



Roots of Paganism

Reaction against industrialisation

- Romantic poets
- Arts & Crafts movement
- Political radicalism



Newton, by William Blake



Roots of Paganism

A Relationship with the Earth, with the Land

- Home and heritage
- Part of Nature
- Loss of connection/indigeneity
- Magic and reconnection

John Clare as a Young Man,
by Peter Edwards & Gay Galsworthy,
John Clare Cottage, Helpston



Roots of Paganism

Freethinking traditions

- Non-conformism – Bunyan, Diggers, Pendle Witches?
- Scientific enquiry
- (More recently) the Green movement

...from reading *The Bible* for yourself to formulating your own religious perspectives & contacts.



John Bunyan, by Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, 1874, Bedford

Roots of Paganism

Modern myths

- Ancient universal Great Goddess
- Medieval witchcraft as a survival of pre-Christian religion
- Fluffy Celts
- The Green Man, Herne the Hunter & Cernunnos



Herne
costume
from
*Robin of
Sherwood*



Foliate head, Norwich Cathedral



Grimes Graves Chalk Goddess

Deities Evolve



'Isis' Unveiled,
etching by Goethe
after Bertel Thorwaldsen, 1807

Artemis of Ephesus
(C.1st C.E. Roman copy)
Ephesus Museum.
Picture: Pvasiliadis

Diana (c.1720),
lead (Cheere Workshop?),
Anglesey Abbey,
Cambridgeshire



Deities Evolve



Nehalennia Altar (C. 2nd C.E.),
etching by Noach van der Meer II after Engelbertus
Matthias Engelberts, 1751-1822. Rijksmuseum



Abbot's Bromley
Horn Dance
procession in 2017



Reindeer in Lapland, Sweden.
Picture: Alexandre Buisse CC-BY-SA.



Hathor face from 19th Dynasty
Temple of Thebes. British Museum

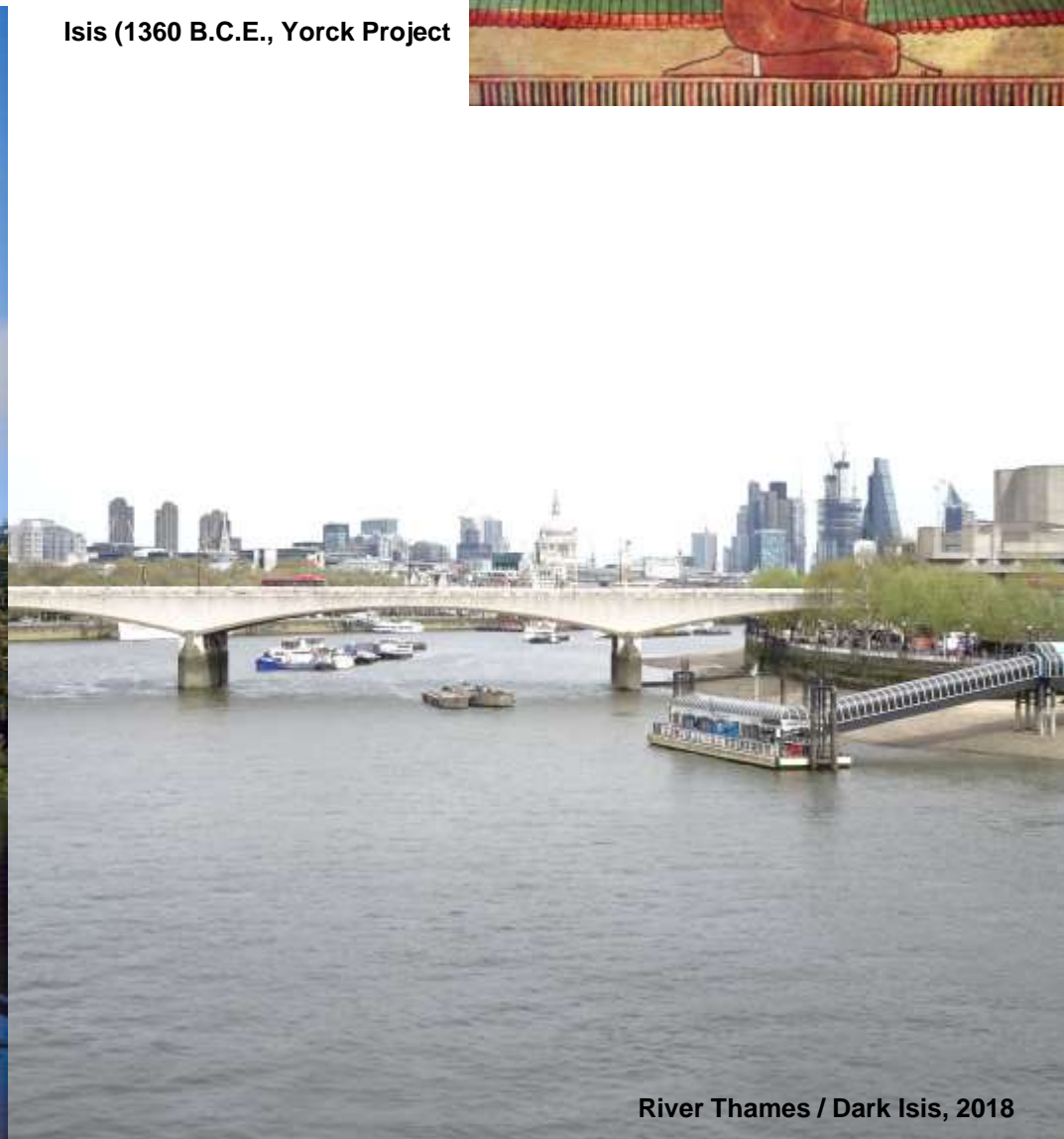
And Move



Isis (1360 B.C.E., Yorck Project



Pleasure Wherry Hathor on the Wensum in Norwich, 2009



River Thames / Dark Isis, 2018

Place – the Sacred Land



Place – the Sacred Land



Place – the Sacred Land

A photograph of a grassy hillside, likely a prehistoric site, with yellow wildflowers scattered across the slope. The hillside is covered in green grass and numerous small yellow flowers, possibly buttercups, which are more concentrated in some areas. The background shows a flat landscape with more greenery and a few distant structures under a clear sky.

Place – the Sacred Land



Place – the Sacred Land



The last 'Little Wolf',
King Edmund, and a She-Wolf Roman coin



St. Withburga's Well,
East Dereham

Place – the Sacred Land



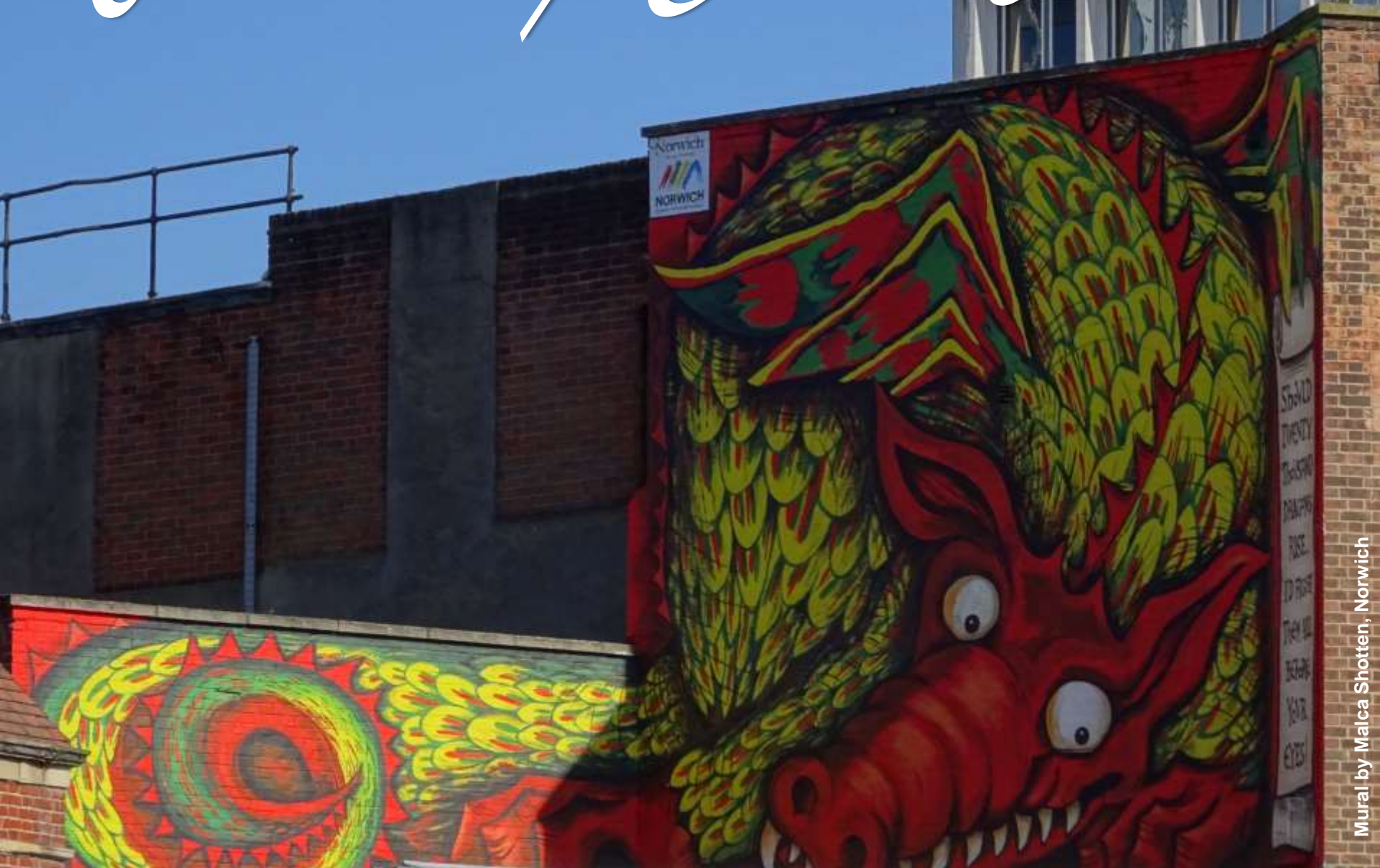
Kett's Oak, near Hethersett

Place – the Sacred Land



Chalk outcrop at
West Runton
and the Upper
Sheringham
Mermaid

Place – the Sacred Land



Place – the Sacred Land



Inside the 18th-century St. Benet's Mill

Place – the Sacred Land



Further Reading

- Caitlín & John Matthews *Walkers Between the Worlds: The Western Mysteries from Shaman to Magus*, Inner Traditions (previously *The Western Way* Arkana).
- Pete Jennings *Pagan Paths*, Rider.
- Graham Harvey *Listening People, Speaking Earth: Contemporary Paganism*, Hurst.
- Ronald Hutton *The Stations of the Sun: A History of the Ritual Year in Britain*, OUP.
- Ronald Hutton *The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft*, OUP.
- Philip Carr-Gomm and Richard Heygate *The Book of English Magic*, Hodder.
- Val Thomas *Of Chalk and Flint: A Way of Norfolk Magic*, Troy Books.
- Nigel Pennick *Secrets of East Anglian Magic*, Robert Hale / Capall Bann.

Further Reading

- Val Thomas *Of Chalk and Flint: A Way of Norfolk Magic*, Troy Books.
- Doreen Valiente *Natural Magic*, Phoenix / Robert Hale
- Nigel Pennick *Way of Natural Magic*, Thorsons.
- Nigel Pennick *Operative Witchcraft*, Lear/Destiny.
- Marian Green *A Witch Alone*, Thorsons / Hampton Roads.
- Marian Green *The Elements of Natural Magic*, Element.
- Rae Beth *Hedgewitch*, Robert Hale.
- Vivianne Crowley *Wicca*, Thorsons/Element.
- Ronald Hutton *The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft*, OUP.

Further Reading

- Philip Carr-Gomm *The Rebirth of Druidry*, Element.
- Emma Restall Orr *Principles of Druidry*, Thorsons.
- Emma Restall Orr *Druid Priestess*, Thorsons.
- Emma Restall Orr *Living Druidry: Magical spirituality for the wild soul*, Piatkus
- Philip Shallcrass *Druidry*, Piatkus.
- Pete Jennings *The Norse Tradition: a beginner's guide*, Headway.
- Nigel Pennick *The Complete Illustrated Guide to Runes*, Element.
- Freya Aswynn *Northern Mysteries and Magick*, Llewellyn (formerly *Leaves of Yggdrasil*).
- Brian Bates *The Way of Wyrð: Tales of an Anglo-Saxon Sorcerer*, Century. (fiction).

Paganism

Rooted in the Earth, reaching for the Sky

Paganism

Norwich Pagan Moot



www.norwichmoot.co.uk