



3 *Pagans of Wakefield,
Hosted by Westgate Unitarian
Chapel, Westgate,
Wakefield,
WFI IXR*

Krystal – Wakefield Local Co-ordinator
07719 364318
freaky_tree@hotmail.com

Paganism

Pagans believe in many Gods and Goddesses, from one particular pantheon or from several. Some Pagans are monotheistic, believing in the supremacy of the Goddess or that of an inconceivable, indescribable creator force that is asexual. Some are duotheistic, looking for and valuing balance - where there is a Goddess, there must be a God. Some mix Animism (where everything has a "soul"), Pantheism (where "Nature" is the Divine) and Panentheism (where "Nature" is the manifest aspect of the Divine). Others avoid Deity concepts altogether, preferring to work with the natural, classical elements, and some "mix and match" their concepts according to the situation.

The Divine is not somewhere else, in some "better" place, it also within us and everything else; it is omnipresent, immanent. It is the soul within us, our higher self. Paganism is not limited by dogma, and many Pagans are open-minded and flexible in their approach to deity.

Wheel of the Year

Most Pagan religious observances are built around the flow of the seasons, directly linking into the natural world and its tides, known by some as the Wheel of the Year. There are eight festivals, or Sabbats, that make up the Wheel of the Year

The Quarter Points - the Equinoxes and the Solstices are the solar festivals because they relate to the strength and position of the sun throughout the seasons.

- Yule (21 December): This is the longest night of the year; when we ask for the return of the sun, light and life to the world. We light a Yule log to encourage the light to return.

- Ostara (21 March): When the length of day and night are in balance, a time to welcome spring. Most of the traditions relate to fertility and the renewal of life force, e.g. "Easter" eggs.

- Litha (21 June): This is the longest day of the year; when we celebrate growth, fruitfulness, abundance, and strength. We often light bonfires to celebrate the sun. It is worth noting that this is an auspicious time for magick, as many of the natural ingredients that may be used are at the height of their potency.

- Mabon (21 September): Day and night are in balance again but the light is waning. This is one of two "harvest festivals" that are celebrated in the wheel, the other being the cross-quarter festival of Lamas.

The Cross-quarter Points - the Fire festivals are agricultural festivals that tend to mark key moments in the planting, growing and harvesting of crops.

- Imbolc (2 February): Daylight is growing and winter shall soon be gone. Lighting candles is a symbol of the growing light.

- Beltaine (1 May): This festival celebrates sexuality and fertility - male and female energies coming together to produce children, crops and livestock. Dancing around the maypole - a distinctly phallic symbol - is a traditional Pagan practice during this festival.

- Lamas (1 August): The first harvest festival celebrates the first grains of corn harvested for the baking of bread (loaf mass).

- Samhain (31 October): The beginning of the dark half of the year; and the traditional New Year of the Pagan calendar; when we celebrate the end of the harvest, and when we honour our ancestors and the dead.

Some Pagans will also observe the Esbats, which are the thirteen full moons of the year. Others will honour the days that are sacred to their patron god or goddess.

Magick

Not all pagans practice magick, to others it is an integral part of their pagan path. Magick is like 'active prayer'. I could sit idly by and just ask for something and expect to get it... I doubt the forces that be would look kindly at me sitting there doing nothing but expecting them to provide for me. However; if I do something practical, even if it is something as symbolic as lighting a candle I have at least done something towards what I have asked them for and put some thought into my goal and how best to symbolise it upon my altar; what colour candle to use, what symbols to carve on it, what oils to anoint it with, etc, etc, etc; it may or may not work, but by thinking about and doing something towards it, the Gods are more likely to look favourably on it. It also helps if you help yourself, you can burn all the candles you like, but you will never get the new job you want if you do not fill in the application forms... once the forms are in then the magick should be applied, not before!

Date	Event / activity	Times
Sat 29 May	A display on Paganism and a chance to meet Wakefield Pagans and find out what we are about and what we are up to in the local area	11am-3.30pm
Mon 31 May	A display on Paganism and a chance to meet Wakefield Pagans and find out what we are about and what we are up to in the local area	11am-3.30pm

