

Beltane 2008

Ritual written and led by Ray & Samantha,
Quarter calls written by Simon (E), Bryn (N), Charlene (W), Xavier (S)
(Saturday, November 1, 2008)*



Everyone is smudged.

One by one we call people to come stand before us (the God and Goddess) in a line facing us.

We lead the lines down to the circle (with everyone drumming), meeting at the northern quarter.

The line are lead in separate directions around the circle, chanting: "In the name of Cernunnos/The Great Mother, May this circle be blessed, cleansed and sanctified".

After circling once, the lines continue within the circle stopping at their respective spots as the God and Goddess continue around the circle twice more.

The God and Goddess meet at the northern quarter and walk arm in arm into the circle and then everyone is to cast the circle.

"A circle is cast around about, spirit stay in, world stay out
A circle is cast around about, a world within, a world without
The circle is cast around and around, in spirit and power we are now bound".

OPENING

EAST:

Oh Merlin! Arise from your slumber,
walk with us and weave your magic
Hail and Welcome!

NORTH:

Great Goddess Vivienne
We ask that you bring forth your fire and inspiration during this Beltane rite.
Hail and Welcome!

WEST:

Mighty Danu, Goddess of primordial waters and flowing rivers.
Bring forth your wellspring of knowledge and fertility.
Hail and Welcome!

SOUTH:

Great Belenos, shining one
Warm us with your cleansing Fires,
Attend our ceremony, guide our hearts and minds
Show us your wisdom and strength
Hail and Welcome!

GODDESS:

Oh Great Mother!
Come join us for this Beltane Rite,
Bless us with your warmth and light
Be one with us this night
Hail and Welcome!

~ A wreath is placed on the Goddess head by the God ~

GOD:

Oh Great Cernunnos We call upon you tonight to join our circle
Lend us your strength and knowledge
Let us join with nature and feel your power
Hail and Welcome!

~ Antlers are placed on the Gods head by the Goddess ~

"Beltane is about fertility of the lands and the peoples. It is about letting go of the old and bring in the new. Please think about one thing that you would like to release from your life and one thing you would like to bring in."

A symbolic re-enactment of the blessed union is performed by using a chalice (with spring water) and athame. With the blessed water everyone in the circle is consecrated.

A cauldron is set up in the centre of the circle to symbolize the balefire. Each person is to come forward one by one to the God, where they are handed a pinch of herbs. They think of what they want to release, blow onto the herbs in their hand, drop it into the cauldron and step over it. On the other side the Goddess will hand them a pinch of herbs where they will hold onto it and think about what they would like to bring in to their lives.

Once everyone has stepped over the balefire we all go back to our places and focus on what we want in our lives. Everyone then steps forward together and throw the herbs into the lit fire and start chanting "air so healing, fire empowering, water connecting (grab hands with this), earth manifesting" to raise the energy and send it out to the universe.

CLOSING

GOD

Thank you Cernunnos for what we have learned
Go In Peace
Hail and Farewell!

GODDESS

Thank you Great Mother for blessing us this Beltane night
Go In Peace
Hail and Farewell!

SOUTH:

Great Belenos, Lord of Light
Thank you for your presence this day,
May you continue to protect us and our loved ones,
May your cleansing and healing powers never cease,
Hail and Farewell!

WEST:

Mighty Danu, Goddess of primordial waters and flowing rivers.
Thank you for bringing forth your wellspring of knowledge and fertility.
Hail and Farewell!

NORTH:

Great Goddess Vivienne,
Thank you for bringing forth your fire and inspiration during this Beltane rite.
Hail and farewell!

EAST:

We bless you Mighty Merlin for your Magic, Wisdom and Company
Hail and Farewell!

May this circle be open but unbroken
May the peace of the Goddess be ever in our hearts.
Merry Meet and Merry Part
And Merry Meet again.

* This ritual is a combination of the author's original ideas and information obtained from various books and/or internet sources.

Mask Making at Beltane

Photos by Jenny/Jenwytch



Making clay masks on the Friday night



Waiting for the clay to dry



A work in progress



Simon attempting to mould the mask to his face



Saturday morning - painting



Fox by Jenny



Kiwi by Charlene



Full Moon by Samantha



Mask by Chris



Owl by Bev



Raven by Ray



Mask by Simon



Raven by Nicole



Mask by Maria



Mask by Andrew



Raven & Lorikeet by Jenni



Water Dragon by Janine (above)
Fox by Suzanne (below)





Discs, medallions & sculptures by everyone.

The Beltane Ritual - Photos by Chris



Friday afternoon - waiting for the rest of the group to arrive.



Saturday - all dressed and painted, ready for the ritual.



The God and the Goddess select two lines to be led into the circle.



Drumming and entering the circle.



Drumming while the God and Goddess walk the circle twice more.



The God and Goddess enter the circle.



Calling the Eastern Quarter (followed by North, West then South).



*Invoking the Goddess
(above)*



*Invoking the God
(right)*



*The Great Rite
symbolically re-
enacted by the god &
the Goddess (left)*

*Receiving herbs from
the God (below)*





Dropping herbs into the balefire



Jumping the balefire



Jumping the balefire



Jumping the balefire



The balefire



Receiving herbs from the Goddess



Adding herbs to the fire



Chanting and raising energy



Releasing the energy



Closing the circle and drumming

Maypole Dancing and the Final Day - Photos by Janine



Getting ready...



...for some fun



...the ribbons get shorter



...and shorter



Sunday morning - waiting for the rest of the gang to arrive for the final meditation



One last photo before we head home

More Photos - by Simon



Dancing the Maypole (above) and the Maypole ribbons (below)





Tiggles — Simon's cat



An altar by the Blessed BBQ



Andrew cooks breakfast, yummmmmmm!!

More photos by Ray & Bev



Charlene



Painting



Beverley working on her staff



*Sam setting up the circle
(above)*



*Andrew, Suzanne and the
maypole (right)*



All the masks



Little whatnots



The masked gang

