Woven

Encountering the Wise-Woman

A year-long, soul inspired course for women guided by the Celtic wheel of the year

At the Autumn Equinox 2019 Woven was birthed from the Deep Dark den of She-Bear, nest of Heron, belly of Earth and beat of my Heart. On outstretched wings she wove her first feathered flight around the Celtic Wheel of the Year with 10 courageous, adventurous women as her wings. **Around Lammas (end of July) 2022, Woven will soar again for another year journeying around the cycle of the year.**

We are woven by life into life as life. Much of our suffering is the forgetting of who we are and believing ourselves to be somehow separate from Life, from Source, the Beloved, God, the Divine. We yearn for a sense of belonging, to know who we are and to feel accepted, loved and welcomed. Woven is a year-long voyage whose orientation is a pathway home. For we *are* what we are looking for, and you are your own medicine. During the cycle of this year we will create community, ceremony, explore Earth-centred wisdom, meditation, myth, movement, prayer, grief & gratitude, become undone, Earth Dream, explore plant medicine, ancestor connection, ritual and basic shamanic practice, in and as a heart-centred, soul fuelled circle of women.

Clearly we live in challenging and uncertain times. The systems that have dominated our culture for the last 5,000 years are failing and falling apart. In the spaces and places where these once stood, a new, old, familiar, deeply buried, and very much alive, wise and loamy presence is on the rise. The wisdom of the Deep Feminine is rising rooted through the cracks, despair, uncertainty and possibility of these times; through women, gender fluid and non-binary people, men and some organisations. At the heart of this wisdom and compassion is a cellular knowing of the Unity of life, in life’s brilliant diversity, which we, in our uniqueness are a manifestation. Our task as human beings is to see the truth of who we are, live this and be guided by our calling. Journeying through Woven’s year long cycle will provide way-markers along the path at nodal points in the wheel of the year to assist your discoveries. We pause, breathe, slow down, listen, sense, pay attention, honour, create, realise our kinship with all beings, and the sacredness of all life. ‘*You were born into beauty as beauty for joyful life, wake up and be amazed at the holy grace of life.’* Pat McCabe, (Woman Stands Shining) Dine, Navajo Grandmother, Activist and Ceremonial leader.

During this year-long cycle we will gather together 8 times (approximately every 6 weeks) for a day-long retreat around the Solstices, Equinox’s and cross quarter days. The course continues between each of our gatherings through your own quest and unfolding inner guidance, and through the integration practices sent out mid way between each gathering. **Between each retreat day you have a 1-1 session with me for the purpose of supporting your particular journey and direction** and deepening into the practices. These sessions can happen outside in our broader nature or inside and can take many different forms which can include; deepening into a particular practice or area of exploration, walking, creating ritual, working with Water, exploring ways of meditation and prayer, time to reflect on where you are now, working with a particular theme, or aspect of the cycle. You choose what you bring to these sessions.

The cost of individual sessions is in addition to the core course fee, and are paid for at the time of the session.

Midway through the year a **creative project** is discussed which you work on over a number of months. Your creative offering is then shared with the rest of the group towards the end of the course. The creative offering can take any form and can range from the very simple to something more elaborate.

Each woman is paired with **a buddy** from the course, we found that it works well to have contact with your buddy between each gathering.

We will be nomadic in our gatherings around Oxfordshire to enable us to learn from, and work with, different elements and places including; sacred wells, trees, river, fire, sky, in yurt, cabin, hall and places yet to be known… Due to covid arriving two thirds of the way through Woven’s previous year, we completed the year on Zoom with time spent during the Zoom retreat days exploring practices in local green spaces and gardens. The intention is for all retreat days to happen in person taking care of any safe practice guidelines. If any retreats did need to transfer onto Zoom we are now well practiced at holding retreats in this way.

This Woven voyage is embodied, ensouled, draws from the heart and calls to the heart in service of regenerative thriving life. Curiosity, an open heart & mind, a willingness to share, practice Deep Listening, to abide in beginner’s mind, to play, respect and be committed to a depth exploration through attending all the sessions will support your participation and enrichment of this course. As identity begins to flow and unbind from a skin-encapsulated sense of self to a sense of being woven from and into all life, our life, work, prayer and play becomes a service to the mystery that is calling us home.

**Woven invites a group of between 7-11 women to gather for her next voyage.**

**Dates** - We will gather *close to* each of the Celtic festivals- Samhain 30th October, Winter Solstice date, Imbolc 2nd Feb, Spring Equinox 21st Marach, Belatane 1st May, Summer Solstice 21st June, Lammas 1st August, Autumn Equinox 21st September. Exact dates to be confirmed.

There is an intention for the group of Woven women to have a walk together prior to the course starting so we can meet each other and start getting to know ourselves as a group.

**Costs** – **Core cost** for all 8 retreat days is on a sliding scale between **£700 - £950,** you place yourself on the sliding scale. 1 financially assisted place is available paying 50% of the core costs, for a woman who would not otherwise be able to participate in the course.

*A £250 non-returnable deposit is required on booking*. The balance can be paid in monthly instalments to be completed by the start of the course, by 2 further instalments or by a single payment made at least 4 weeks before the course begins.

**Individual Session costs** £55-65 these 1-1 sessions last for an hour and happen in-between each retreat day and after the final gathering. They are paid for on the day of the session.

**Bookings and Inquiries** If the Rivers, Bones and threads of *Woven* stir something ancient and mysterious in you do make contact with me; allysoilandsoul@gmail.com

[www.allystott.co.uk](http://www.allystott.co.uk)

Karen Salter, who completed the first Woven cycle will be assisting with practical matters on this course and with some of the administration - karensalter4@icloud.com

***Reflections and kind words by women who travelled with Woven last year***

**Woven is**? – ‘Alive. Connection. An entity of great spirit and great medicine. Wisdom teachings we once all called upon. Old world dialogue over eons, shared once more forming in new tongues, fingers and drums’

‘A tenderly held maternal matrix, unearthing the deepest, darkest forgotten stories and dreams of the returning goddess’

‘A place where you can feel safe and rooted on the Earth with wings to fly.’

‘The integration of joy and grief, life and death. By taking self responsibility we stand in our true power and shine’

‘The re-awakening of the Deep Feminine’

‘Women weaving wisdom, Earthwork, remembering, womb, gratitude, calling us home’

**Personal Experiences**

‘This is the first time I’ve been able to walk a year-long process in a way that feels really transformative’

‘I have felt connections grow in all my relationships, with myself, other people, the land and my ancestors’

‘I loved the creative tasks and ceremonies we carried out together, the Womb-Belt weaving, making medicine pouches, garlands, water rituals’

‘I experienced such genuine openness, warmth, generosity of spirit and deep listening from the group. I see that acknowledging inner resistance, engrained personal habits and discomfort is a big part of the journey and this affects how we live in the world now’

‘Connecting to the cycles and rhythms of the year and looking at what is around me has deepened my relationship to place, the *Earth needs us to do this*’

‘I loved making things with my hands’

‘At first it was challenging to speak in front of the whole group and creating time in circle to speak and really listen is such a tonic’

‘The 1-1 sessions helped me gain so much more from my Woven experience and how this relates to the unfolding of my soul-path’

‘I am so much more connected to the land and the place that I live. I have a sense of doors opening and there being so much more to learn and explore, I find this very exciting’

Thank you to the Women of Woven who have shared their experiences here.

And my deep gratitude also to the places, spirits, and creatures we have worked with, to all of my teachers, guides and ancestors, to the spirits and soul of Woven.

Ally Stott

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allysoilandsoul@gmail.com