

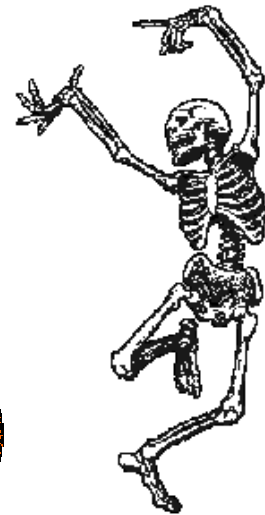
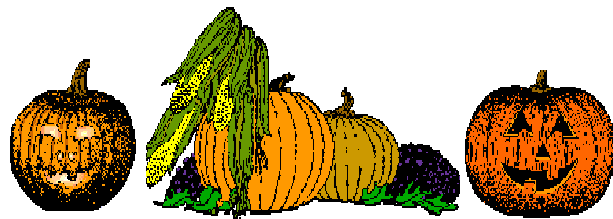
Calan Gaeaf

The First Night of Winter

also called

Samhain

The Red Oak Grove Ritual



Calan Gaeaf Ritual Outline

A. Arrangement

1. Set up Nyfed
2. Brief Participants
3. Individual meditation and preparations

B. Beginning

1. BD'S Musical Signal to establish clear-cut Beginning
2. The Processional & Chant
3. Call to Worship

C. Calling the Kindred

1. Call Nature Spirits & Acknowledge Outsiders
2. Call Ancestors & State Ritual Purpose & Precedent
3. Call Individual Ancestors
4. Honor notable people who passed to Annwfn this year
5. Purify People, Open Gates, Call Gods, & Ask Brigid for Bardic Assistance

Abbr.	Role	Name
DX	Priest of Rite	
DO	Priestess of Rite	
FT	Fire Tender	
BD	Bard	
AS	Invoker of Ancestors	
GS	Invoker of Gods	
NS	Invoker of Nature Spirits	
ED	Invoker of Brigid	
SD	Invoker of Lleu	
WD	Invoker of Rhiannon	
ND	Invoker of Math	

D. Devotion

1. Honor Dôn
2. Honor An Dagda
3. Call Math
4. Call Brigid
5. Call Lleu
6. Call Rhiannon & Invite Rhiannon into Channeler
7. Ask Rhiannon to Bless the Council of Leaders
8. Ask Rhiannon to Call Math into Second Channeler

E. Exchange of Blessings

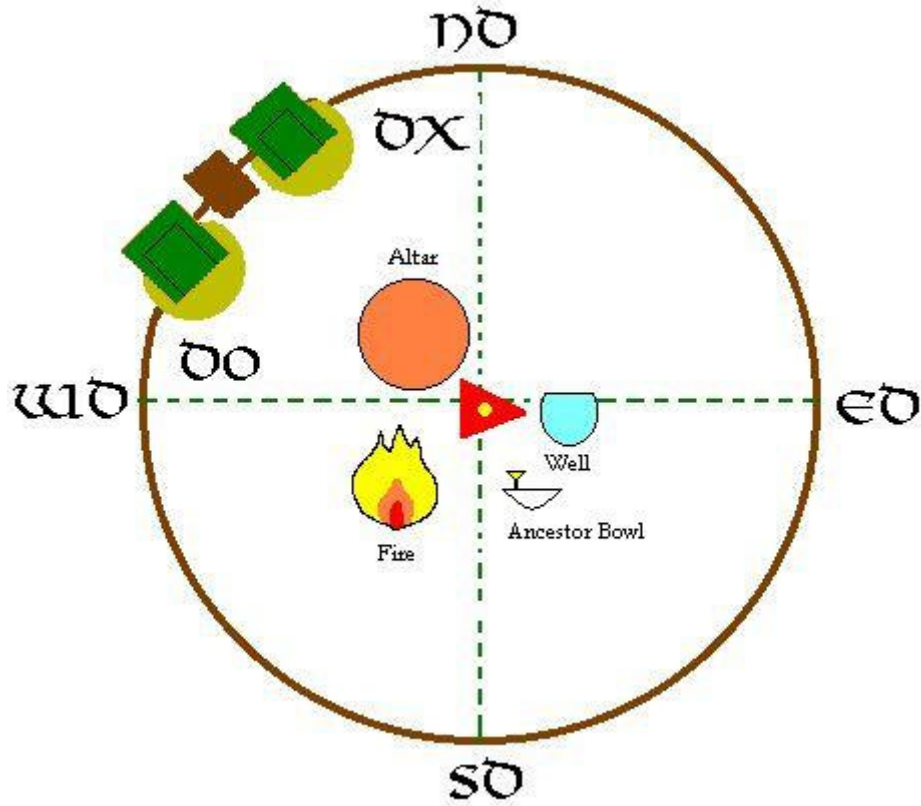
1. Offerings and Sacrifices
2. Final offerings, prayer for acceptance.
3. Changing of the Seasons
4. The Final Sacrifice
5. Omen of Return: Ask Rhiannon and Math what their blessings are.
6. Final chat with Rhiannon, ask for Rhiannon to bring back Channeler.
7. Final Chat with Math, ask Him to bless the new Torch
8. Ask for Math to return Channeler.
9. DX holds the new Torch and asks Ancestors for Blessings; thanks all Ancestors.

F. Farewells

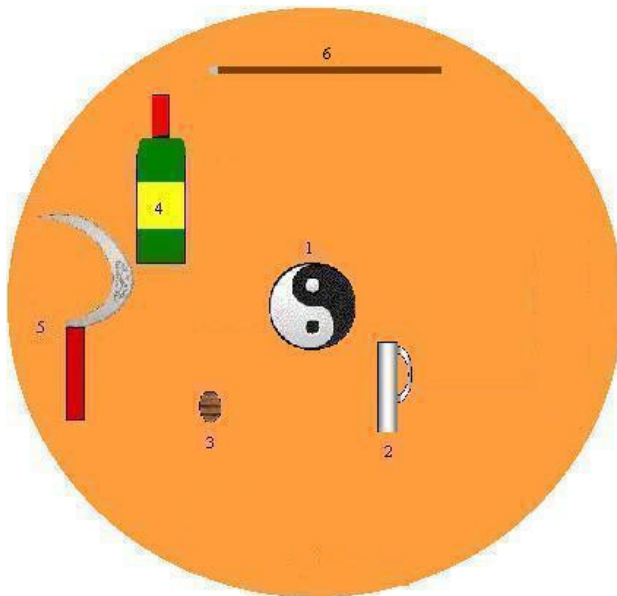
1. Thank Rhiannon
2. Thank Lleu
3. Thank Brigid
4. Thank Math
5. Thank the Gods
6. Thank the Ancestors
7. Thank the Spirits of Nature
8. Honor An Dagda
9. Honor Don
10. Ending Chant: "We Are the People of the Oak"
11. Final Benediction
12. BD: Musical Signal

A. ARRANGEMENT

The layout of the Nyfed:



The Altar:



- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. lamp of Dón and An Dagda 2. olive oil 3. hazel nut 4. whiskey 5. Rhiannon's Sickle 6. Math's Wand |
|---|

Calan Gaeaf Ritual

B. BEGINNING

1. BD'S MUSICAL SIGNAL TO ESTABLISH CLEAR-CUT BEGINNING

2. THE PROCESSIONAL & CHANT

All the Celebrants, led by Fire Tender with lit Torch:

By the Land beneath us,
By the Sea surrounding us,
By the Sky above us,
We come unto the Gods.

Walk around Deasil one complete time. Fire Tender places Torch in holder

3. CALL TO WORSHIP

DX walks to Altar, turning to face all:

People of the Oak, Friends of the Earth, Children of the Mother,
Faithful Followers of the Old Ways,
We call you all to join us now in Sacred Worship.

C. CALLING THE KINDRED

1. CALL NATURE SPIRITS & ACKNOWLEDGE OUTSIDERS

NS walks to Bile with tobacco

Misingkaulekuan, Mighty masked dancer of the woods,
We call you and all of the Spirits of Nature,
We thank you for allowing us to spend this time in your home.

To all our Nature Spirit allies we welcome you,
We offer you this gift of tobacco, and ask you to watch over us.
Keep us safe and undisturbed while we are here.

To those who are not our allies
We ask you to be silent for a while and leave us alone,
With our loving thoughts, words and deeds.

2. CALL ANCESTORS & STATE RITUAL PURPOSE & PRECEDENT

AS walks to Well and offers food & whisky

Honored Ancestors! Old Ones! Ancient Druids!
Grandmothers, grandfathers, ancient heroes, elder wise ones,
We offer you this bread and whisky and we Call to you to flow up through the Gates.

We feel you in the sacred wells that flow beneath us,
We see you in your many works that surround us,
We hear you in our thoughts and in our hearts.
We read your words, we feel your presence, we remember your ways:

Today we celebrate Calan Gaeaf, which means “Beginning of Winter”
It’s interesting that in Irish this Holiday is called Samhain which means “End of Summer”
Both names clearly point to the fact that the Celts saw the year divided into 2 halves:
a dark half and a light half. Just as they used Dusk to mark the beginning of a new day,
they used this Holiday to mark the beginning of a new year.

Calan Gaeaf was not part of the old year or the new year – it was a special day *in between* the years,
It was the day that was spoken of when they said, “A year and a day” in so many old spells and charms.
Because it was in between, and not part of either, it was closer to the Otherworld – just as twilight is
That meant that passage between the worlds was easier, and the Ancestors are closer.
We use this Holiday to honor our Ancestors and remember them.
We ask them to join us and Bless us as we give them Praise and Offerings.

3. CALL INDIVIDUAL ANCESTORS

DX holds up old Torch

This Torch represents our Ancestors and their wisdom.

Holding it, and taking turns,

We Call upon our own Friends and Kin, who crossed over most recently.

Pass old Torch and let people call their own ancestors. or departed friends

4. HONOR NOTABLE PEOPLE WHO PASSED TO ANNWFN THIS YEAR

DO is standing to DX’s right, so is the last to get the Torch

Over the past year many people have died on this World. Hear now, this list of some of the
more notable ones who have passed to Annwfn since last Calan Gaeaf:

<Read list>

5. PURIFY PEOPLE, OPEN GATES, CALL GODS, & ASK BRIGEDD FOR BARDIC ASSISTANCE

BD walks to the Well with a flower

BD: I walk to the Sacred Well

Hallowed with the water of 9 sacred Rites

May this Holy Water cleanse this place and these people.

BD sprinkles water in air with flower. FT hands old Ancestor Torch to BD

FT/GS: I light a Sacred Fire to be a gateway between the worlds *<place Torch in Urn>*

Lord Cernunnos: May this Gate be opened wide

And may the Gods walk through it into our midst!

BD: Dearest Brigedd, Matron of Poets, inspirer and healer,

Send us your Blessed Awen

Let us uplift our hearts with Your words.

D. DEVOTION

1. HONOR DÔN

DO lights a long match from Fire and then lights green Lamp on left side. Spread arms and look toward the Earth

Glorious Dôn, our First Mother,
Queen of Annwn, Earth's Delight,
Child's Nurse and Womb of Wisdom,
Gentle comforter of the Night.
You are represented here by Brigedd's Well,
Charged with Water from nine sacred Rites.

DO picks up a Hazelnut from Altar

I offer you this gift of a Hazelnut
to represent the Wisdom that you send us,
And to thank You for being with us, as always.

DO puts Hazelnut in Well

2. HONOR AN DAGDA

DX lights a long match from fire and then lights red lamp on right side. Spreads arms and looks toward the Sky, and says:

Great An Dagda, our First Father,
King of Annwn, Heaven's Might
Druid's Master, Seed of Wisdom
Glorious, Mighty, God of Light.

DX picks up bottle of oil from Altar

I offer you this gift of rare Spanish olive oil
To feed your fire and burn it bright
And to thank you for being with us, as always.

DX pours oil into Fire. DX & DO return to their places

3. CALL MATH

ND goes to Central Altar and picks up the Wand of Math

Please face the North
I, _____ descendent of _____, hold the Wand of Math.
Math ap Mathonwy, Master Magician
Brother of Don and Uncle of Gwydion.
Join us Math and fill us with Wisdom, Sight and Magic!

ND places the wand back on the altar.

4. CALL BRIGEDD

ED faces east

Please face the East
I, _____ descendent of _____, hold the Chalice of Brigedd.
Brigedd the Healer, Brigedd the Inspirer, Brigedd the Hearth-keeper.
Join us Brigedd, and fill us with Health, Inspiration and Love!

5. CALL LLEU

SD faces south

Please face the South

I, _____descendent of _____, hold the Sword of Llew.
Llew Llaw Gyffes -- the Bright One with the Deft Hand,
Llew the Many Skilled, Llew the Long Arm,
Join us Llew and fill us with Passion, Skill and Joy!"

6. CALL RHIANNON

WD goes to Central Altar and picks up the Sickle of Rhiannon

WD: Please face the West

I, _____descendent of _____, hold the Sickle of Rhiannon.
Rhiannon, the Great Mother, mother of Pryderi,
Rhiannon, the Harvester, Rhiannon, Goddess of Fertility.

This child of the earth has offered to allow you to visit us through her
Rhiannon, we ask that you join us.

All: Chant Awen

When Rhiannon arrives, Attendants place Robe on her. DO fastens Robe and places Torc around Her neck.

DO offers hospitality: Seat & Drink.

Ask Rhiannon if She has something to say now.

7. ASK RHIANNON TO BLESS THE COUNCIL OF LEADERS

Each year, one of the three members of the Council of Leaders is elected; here we ask Rhiannon to bless them for their three-year term.

8. ASK RHIANNON TO CALL MATH INTO SECOND CHANNELER

Chanting of Awen. Math is robed. Hospitality is offered, interview is conducted.

E. AWEN O'DUWIAU OF RHIANNON & MATH

1. OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES

GS: Welcome to the Shining Gods and Goddesses of Nyfed Ddar Goch!
Welcome to the Noble Ancestors and the Mighty Tylwyth Teg!
Welcome to all those Called by these people.
Welcome to all of you: Family, Friends and Guests!
To all those who have gathered by our Fire,
we invite you to join us now in worshipping our Matrons and Patrons
of this holy Rite with gifts of our labor, our love and our praise.
Let's lift up our voices in praise
and let the Fire, the Well and the Tree carry our gifts to our Beloved Kindred!

Nod to the person standing to your left

DX: Are there any other praise offerings?

Nod to the person standing to your left

2. FINAL OFFERINGS, PRAYER FOR ACCEPTANCE.

DX: Are there any other praise offerings?

3. CHANGING OF THE SEASONS

Rhiannon gives Math the torc: he kneels before her, and passes on the season.

4. THE WATERS OF LIFE

DX takes the goblets from Math and Rhiannon:

DX: May I borrow your goblet?

DX prepares Waters of Life

DX: Everyone, please direct your energy and love into this goblet
Take the Awe you hold for Nature
The honor and respect you hold for your Ancestors
And the Worship you hold for your Gods
And pour them into this Goblet.

Rhiannon and Math, you have received our gifts and praises. We offer our gifts unconditionally. We also ask you to convey our praises and offerings to the other kindred.

DO: And yet you have taught us that a gift begets a gift and that you bless us when we praise you. Therefore, we ask you to share your blessings with us, especially through these waters.

Hand goblets to Deities; Deities bless the goblets.

DX: Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!
Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!
Mighty Kindred, accept our sacrifice!

DX: (*with joy*) Wele Ddŵr Bywyd! Behold! The Waters of Life!

DO: The Waters of Life!

DX gives to DO - She drinks - gives back - He drinks

DO: This is pure water, charged with the water of nine sacred Rites. Wele Ddŵr Bywyd! Behold! The Waters of Life!

DX: The Waters of Life!

DO gives to DX - He drinks - gives back - She drinks

DX: When we share a drink with the Gods we remind ourselves that we are always sharing their Blessings. Accept their Blessings in Love and Gratitude!

Share the Waters of Life

5. OMEN OF RETURN: ASK RHIANNON AND MATH WHAT THEIR BLESSINGS ARE.

6. FINAL CHAT WITH RHIANNON, ASK FOR RHIANNON TO BRING BACK CHANNELER.

WD assists Channeler, Provide water and carrots for Channeler.

7. FINAL CHAT WITH MATH, ASK HIM TO BLESS THE NEW TORCH

8. ASK FOR MATH TO RETURN CHANNELER.

N, provides water and carrots for Channeler.

11. DX PASSES THE TORCH AND ASKS ANCESTORS FOR BLESSINGS; THANKS ALL ANCESTORS.

F. FAREWELLS

1-4. THANK SEASONAL DEITIES

WD walks to the Central Altar, picks up the Sickle of Rhiannon, then faces West

Please face the West
I face the West, Oh Great Rhiannon,
And Autumn's rich abundant land.
I'm thankful for your precious prizes.
You cut down life, new life arises.
As day is done, with jobs complete,
Projects finished or cut short
It's time to stop and gather up,
I'm grateful for your gifts to me.

Lower Sickle and face the Altar

SD faces South

Please face the South.
I face the South, Oh, Skillful Llew.
The Summer's sunshine is your gaze.
Your bright, hot fires ignite my passion.
Like a well-made Knife, joyfully used.
At midday now, I feel your joy,
For jobs to do, rewards to earn,
To do my best and better still,
I'm happy now to play and learn.

ED faces East

Please face the East.
I face the East, oh Brilliant Bri
The kiss of Spring is your sweet daughter.
Your healing love pours over me,
Like a Cup of cool, refreshing water.
As new day dawns I feel your love,
With promises of new beginnings,
New ways to serve and new rewards,
I'm filled with fresh anticipation.

ND walks to the Central Altar, picks up the Wand of Math, then faces North

Please face the North
I face the North, oh Master Math,
Sharp and crisp as Winter's night.
Lead me down your magic path -
Teach me how to guide my Sight.
At Midnight with no light to see,
Beliefs create reality.
Guide my Soul and set it free,
I'm filled with Spirit's mystery.

Lower Wand and face the Altar

5-7. THANK THE KINDRED

BD takes a step toward center of Circle and says:

Bright and Shining Gods and Goddesses
Thank you for attending our Rite.
We bid you Farewell and Bright Blessings!"

All: Farewell and Bright Blessings!

AS takes a step toward center of Circle and says

Honored and Noble Ancestors,
Thank you for attending our Rite.
We bid you Farewell and Bright Blessings!"

All: Farewell and Bright Blessings!

NS takes a step toward center of Circle and says

Mising, and all the Spirits of Nature
Thank you for attending our Rite.
We bid you Farewell and Bright Blessings!"

All: Farewell and Bright Blessings!

8 & 9. HONOR AN DAGDA & DÔN

DX & DO pick up the Oil Lamps

DX: Forceful Father

DO: Receptive Mother

Both: We are One.

Blow out Lamps & Hug

Both: Felly y Bydded!

All: Felly y Bydded!

10. ENDING CHANT: "WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE OAK"

We are the people of the Oak
Gathered by the sacred tree.
Nature's great Spirits we invoke
All your Blessings growing free.

We are the children of the Dead
Joined here by the Sacred Well
Honoring everything you've said
Guided by the words you tell.

We are the servants of the Gods
Praying by the Sacred Fire

Holding our sickles and our rods,
Sending our praises ever higher.

11. FINAL BENEDICTION

DX: People of the Oak, Friends of the Earth, Children of the Mother,
Go now, in peace and with the blessings of the Kindred.
The Rite is ended! Felly y Bydded!

All: Felly y Bydded!

11. BD: MUSICAL SIGNAL

END OF RITUAL