

Calan Mai

The Beginning of the Summer Half

also called

Beltane

The Red Oak Grove Ritual



Calan Mai Ritual

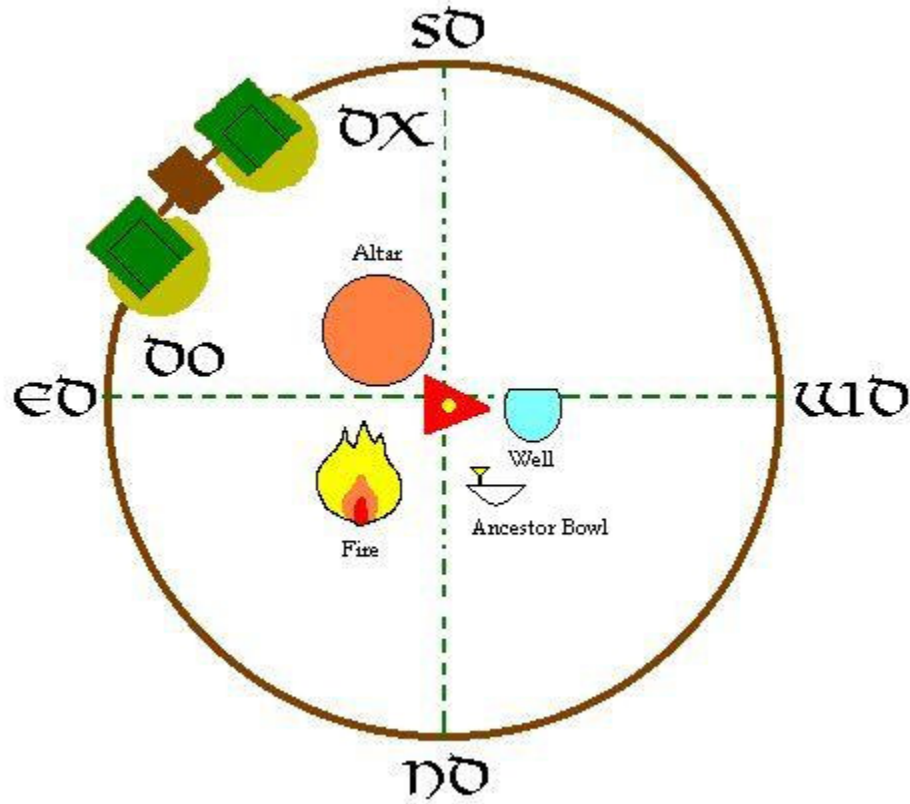
Featuring Brigedd & Lleu at the May Pole

Location:

	Set up, Arrangement, May Pole, Well, socket, Ribbons, Mead, Throne,
	Awenydd Initiation
	Fire Tender – light charcoal, 4 candles
	Musical Signal
	Processional & Chant
	Call to Worship
	Unity Chant: “The People of the Oak”
	Call Mising & Acknowledgment of the Outsiders
	Ask Brigedd for Bardic Assistance:
	Ritual Purpose & Precedent & Name Deities of the Occasion
	Purification(s) of Priests and Participants
	Honor Don
	Honor An Dagda
	Call Nature Spirits
	Call Ancestors
	Call Gods
	Call Rhiannon
	Call Math
	Invoke Guest Kindred
	Make Praise Offerings to all Kindred and Deities except Brigedd & Lleu
	Call Brigedd & Awen o Duwiau
	Hospitality
	Interview Bri
	Ask Bri to Call Lleu
	Call Lleu
	Bri calls Lleu into West
	Bri transfers chair & Torc to Lleu
	Praise Offerings & Sacrifices to Brigedd & Lleu
	Rite of Passage – People may declare themselves to Crefydd Brigedd or Lleu
	Final Sacrifice & Prayer of Acceptance
	Waters of Life are Blessed by Brigedd & Lleu (water & Mead)
	Ask Brigedd & Lleu what they Blessed us with
	As we share WoL, we subtly clear Ritual tools away from area
	Brigedd gathers women together and they dance around Her trailing ribbons
	Lleu leads men into woods to get May Pole, they return and Bless Brigedd’s belly with it
	Brigedd sits and Lleu removes Her garter
	8 ribbons are tied to the garter
	Garter is attached to Pole, men raise pole
	We dance the May Pole around Brigedd & Lleu in the center
	Brigedd & Lleu cut ribbons and distribute
	Thank Brigedd – Stop Awen
	Take care of ED
	Thank Math
	Thank Rhiannon
	Thank Lleu – stop Awen
	Take care of SD
	Thank Gods
	Thank Ancestors
	Thank Mising & Nature Spirits
	Honor An Dagda
	Honor Don
	Ending Chant: People of the Oak
	Final Benediction

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. Chalice of Brigid 6. Sword of Llew |
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Calan Mai 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 Deosil 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.

4. Unity Chant

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.

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....

Details about the season & the Deities & special Rites of Passage, etc.

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

BD walks to the Well with a flower & the Match

BD: I walk to the Sacred Well
Hallowed with the water of nine sacred rites.

BD sprinkles water in air with flower.

May this Holy Water cleanse this place and these people.

BD lights fire with Match

I light a Sacred Fire to be a gateway between the worlds
Lord Cernunnos: May this Gate be opened wide
And may the Gods walk through it into our midst!

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 Annwfn, 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 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!"

4. CALL RHIANNON

WD faces west

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.

5. CALL MATH

ND faces north

Please face the North
I, _____descendent of _____, am 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!

6. CALL BRIGEDD

ED goes to Central Altar and picks up the Chalice

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!

Put Chalice back down

E. AWEN O'DUWIAU OF BRIGEDD & LLEU

1. CALLING BRIGEDD INTO CHANNELER.

Chanting of Awen. When Brigedd has entered the channeler, the selected people will robe him and place the torc on her. DX offers hospitality, conducts interview. Make sure tape recorder is on and ask Brigedd if she minds being recorded.

2. ASK BRIGEDD TO CALL LLEU INTO SECOND CHANNELER

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

3. 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

4. FINAL OFFERINGS, PRAYER FOR ACCEPTANCE.

DX: Are there any other praise offerings?

5. CHANGING OF THE SEASONS

Brigedd gives Lleu the torc, kneels before Brigedd, and passes on the season.

6. THE WATERS OF LIFE

DX takes the goblets from Brigedd and Lleu

DX: May I borrow your goblets?

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.

Brigedd and Lleu, 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

7. LLEU TAKES THE GARTER OFF BRIGEDD.

The Garter will then placed on the top of the May Pole when it is delivered.

8. MAY POLE RITE AND DANCE.

The men, lead by Lleu, will go off into the woods to find the May Pole, while the women surround Brigedd and keep the men away. The women give way, and Brigedd's belly is blessed with the top of the May Pole. It is then erected, and alternating lines of men and women dance around the Pole, weaving the ribbons. After the weaving is complete, Lleu and Brigedd will cut off pieces of the ribbons as gifts to the people.

9. OMEN OF RETURN: ASK BRIGEDD AND LLEU WHAT THEIR BLESSINGS ARE.

10. FINAL CHAT WITH BRIGEDD, ASK FOR BRIGEDD TO BRING BACK CHANNELER.

XD assists Channeler, Provide water and carrots for Channeler.

11. FINAL CHAT WITH LLEU.

12. ASK FOR LLEU TO RETURN CHANNELER.

XD provides water and carrots for Channeler.

F. FAREWELLS

1-4. Thank Seasonal Deities

ND 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.

WD 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.

SD walks to the Central Altar, picks up the Sword of Llew, then 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.

Lower Sword and face the Altar

ED walks to the Central Altar, picks up the Chalice of Bri, then 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.

Lower Chalice and face the Altar

5-7. THANK THE KINDRED

GS 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
Missing, 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

May Pole Song

C B C B C D E	E D E D E F G
Wea-ving Her a joy-ful crown	Wea-ving up and wea-ving down
E D E F G	G F E F G
This is how we play	Dan-cing in this way
C C G G E E C	C D E F G B C
Hon-or-ing the Queen of Spring	Wel-com-ing the Sum-mer King
G F E D C	C D E D C
Cel-e-brate the May!	Cel-e-brate the May!