

All Shall Be Well

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

"All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well" was the motto of Julian of Norwich, a 14th century woman who survived the Black Death and later became an anchoress, walling herself up in the tower of St Julian's church after a series of religious visions. She described her views of a benevolent loving deity to those visiting her cell and also in a book, the earliest surviving work by a woman writing in English. This was suppressed by the church, but copies were preserved by an order of nuns until its popular rediscovery in the 20th century. In these times of mass self-isolation even atheist dance devisers may take comfort from her optimism.

As a woman known by a male name, she is represented here by both members of 1st couple who are isolated in the centre for bars 17-24. The last 8 bars depict the ringing of church bells. Although hands would normally be taken here, this phrase may also be danced hands free. The dancers should align in geometric cross shapes at the end of bars 13, 15 and 19.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st couple dance towards each other then cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.
- 5-8 1st couple dance half reels of three across the dance, giving left shoulder to their 1st corners.
- 9-12 1st couple then dance half reels of three on the sides, giving right shoulders to their 2nd corner position. 1st couple end in 2nd place opposite sides.
- 13-16 1st couple dance back to back across the set while the corners dance back to back on the sides starting by passing left shoulder.
- 17-20 1st couple petronella to the centre line then, with small steps to the side, set advancing past each other. Meanwhile the corners chase half way round clockwise and end pulling back left shoulder to face anticlockwise.
- 21-24 The corners chase anticlockwise back to opposite sides while 1st couple dance one and quarter times around each other in the centre of the dance, passing by the left shoulder and ending in 2nd place opposite sides.
- 25-28 All advance for one and retire for one. Then, giving both hands, all turn their partner three quarters to end facing up and down on the centre line.
- 29-32 All set to their partner and, giving both hands, turn three quarters to end on own sides in the order 3,1,2.

Music

- Tune: To be decided.
- Example recording: 3x32 Strathspeys (Macadians: Dancing Master).