

THE ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH STRATHSPEY

A 48 bar Strathspey in a 3 couple set.

1-4 1C dance in to shoulder to shoulder facing up and cast into second place, 2C stepping up on 3-4. (The long cast.)

5-8 1C turn $1\frac{1}{2}$ with left hand moving up into between the 2C in top place so that they are in a line of 4 across the set. 1C face their partners and hence own sides.

9-16 1C and 2C dance *set and pass* (twice). To wit:

9-10 All set.

11-12 1C dance to first place on own sides passing partner and 1M passing 2M, 2C dancing in to replace 1C, 2M replacing 1M, 2W replacing 1W, 1W passing 2W by the right shoulder, and all pull back right shoulder to finish 2C facing own sides and 1C facing across the set. Note all are passing collective right shoulder.

13-14 All set.

15-16 Repeat 11-12 with the roles of 1C and 2C reversed. To wit: 2C dance to first place on own sides passing partner and 1M passing 2M, 1W passing 2W by the right shoulder, 1C replacing 2C. but with 1C finishing with nearer hands joined and facing down, but finishing with 2C *facing out*.

17-24 Giving nearer hands 1C dance down the middle between 3C, cast up to second place, then dance up through first place and cast off around first position (still on opposite sides) and dance down to between 3rd couple, and finish facing each other across the set.

2C cast up and in behind 1C (17-18) and then follow 1C but finish by casting into first place on 23-24.

25-32 1C and 3C dance pass and set twice as 1C and 2C did in 9-16.

33-40 1C and 3C repeat 17-24, upward between 2C, 3C finishing by casting up into 3rd place, and 1C cross (without giving hands) to own sides and second place facing out on 39-40.

41-44 1M and 2M, 1W and 2W turn once around with 1C dancing out to begin.

45-48 1C with 3C turn $1\frac{1}{2}$ on the sides, first couple dancing in to begin.

Finishing order 2,3,1. Repeat with a new top couple.

Notes Devised 11/4/2026. 2026 is the 60th anniversary of Johnsonville Club becoming affiliated with the RSCDS. It is also 30 years of teaching for me at Johnsonville Club. St Columba's Church Sunday School Hall was the original site of dancing in Johnsonville as part of the Church Friendship Club. This evolved into the Johnsonville RSCDS group. Recommended tune is "Caerlaverock Castle" by Ian Homes, and a suitable recording is found as "One for the Millenium" on "Dancers' Choice Vol 2." by Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band. Suitable alternative music includes "Partans in his Creel" by Allie Windwick and a suitable recording is in "Strictly Scottish Volume 1", also by Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band.

Teaching Notes Having now taught this several times, I offer the following notes, which you are free to ignore: Emphasise that 1C are facing each other at the end of bar 8. I would teach the set and pass sequence first. Emphasis that this is done twice, and when it is done in 1st place 2C cast up and follow 1C down, then practice as if they were in 3rd place and emphasis that 3rd couple cast off and follow 1C up. Finally, I am teaching the figure of eight sequences for 1C by first leaving for example, 2C in 2nd place, have 1C then dance 17-24 around the standing 3C and 2C, emphasising that the figures of 8 are 6 bar and not 8 bar.

KERRY COLLINS

A 32 Bar Strathspey for 4 couples in a longwise set.

- 1-4** 2W dances up between the first couple and casts around 1M to finish in 2M's place, while 3W similarly dances between 4C and casts up to 3M's place. On bars 3-4, 2M and 3M take nearer hands and dance across the set, and finish with 2M ready to cast up and 3M ready to cast down.
- 5-8** 2W and 3W take nearer hands and dance across the set (2) and then turn the corner beside them with the obvious hand dancing out. That is, 2W turns 1W with LH, 3W turns 4W with RH. Meanwhile, place 2M casts around 1W, across the top of the set, casts down around 1M and dances back to original place finishing facing diagonally up, whilst 3M similarly dances down around 4L, across the foot of the set and up around 4M into original place and finishes facing diagonally down.
- 9-16** 2M,3M,2L,3L repeat 1-8 with roles reversed. That is we begin 2M crossing up between 1C and casting to behind his partner, and 3M crossing down through 4C and up to partner's place (9-12), etc. At the end, 2M and 3M finish facing out, and 2L and 3L facing in.
- 17-20** 2M loops up around 1M beginning by casting up and then dancing down the middle of the set into second place facing down, 2L loops up around 1L by dancing up the centre of the set and then casting off around 1L and finishes facing down in second place. Similarly 3M and 3L loop down around 4M and 4L respectively and finish in original place facing up.
- 21-22** 2L and 3L, 2M and 3M change places with a half turn with the left hands, finishing on the sidelines facing in.
- 23-24** All take hands on the side and set.
- 25-32** 1C with 3C, 2C with 4C change places with the Bourrel Progression.

Finishing order 3,1,4,2. Repeat from new positions.

Notes Devised 7/12/2025. Inspired by 8 bars of *The White Stag of Arran*, whilst recovering from the first knee replacement. Kerry Collins is my sister.