

THE BISHOP -  
English  
Country  
Dance

Well, I think some of you know this dance. So would you like to take hands six from the top. The Bishop. Does that mean anything to anyone?

First man cast into second place, sets to third woman, and turns her.

The first woman casts into second place, and sets to the third man, and turns him.

Now the top couple hold on to the first couple and bring them up through a window and all the way round and back. While they are doing that the bottom couple do what we call a gypsy, go all the way around each other. It happens at the same time.

Now you are in a ring of six, go half way around.

The two now in top place bring the others through. The others do the gypsy.

Circle six half way round and that brings you into your new place.

The leading couple are still a leading couple. Could you just join up with the two couples below you. If you were a two, you are a three, and if you were a three, you are a two. So you've got to learn another part now. The first couples do the same each time. Gypsy is just face to face with your partner. There is a problem at the top. You've only two couples at the top so you can't start to dance yet. This isn't a problem really. You have even longer for a conversation which is great. But at the bottom you go on dancing even with one couple.

Newcastle

Let's break it up for a moment and we'll do something in rather a different formation. We are going to be clever. We're going to do sort of a square dance. Four couples in square sets. Are all squares complete?

Join hands in a circle, forward and back, set to partners, set to corners.

Repeat

Arm right, men make star, girls go all round outside;  
arm left, girls make star while men go around outside.

Just a little hint. When you are dancing, you'll find it much easier to move and get to the right place if you move from the hips and not from the floor.

Side with your partner. Never take your eyes off that partner. Step to the right, bow and move to the next one. Side with that new one, bow and go on to the next. (Now with original opposite.)

Head couples are now in the sides' places.

Sides lead in, and out, form arch. People at the ends turn away from each other, come around from the outside thru the arch back to where you started that figure.

The top and bottom couple lead in, turn, lead out, and the sides turn away, and come thru the arch.

Arm right with your partner and fall away. Arm left and pass on to next person.

Arm right with the new one, arm left once and a bit and make lines, each man with woman he's just turned on his left, in sides' places.

Fall back, come forward, turn single on the spot.

Now, if you are on the end of the line, you will be in the middle the next time, so you only cross over a little way. If you're in the middle, you're going to be on the ends so you cross over a long way. (Somewhere in demo she said the position in the lines is nearest or opposite to your home position.)

Cross over and make your lines the other way (head position)

Fall back, come forward again, turn single, and cross over and you're home.

If you make a mistake, it is the biggest joke ever. You don't stop and say, "Oh, you went wrong," or "I went wrong," you just keep on going and somehow get there, and have a good giggle. You dance twice as well that way.

I'm going to ask you to do it once more, and I'm going to ask you to do it with boldness and abandon, and stop creeping around as if you are scared of making mistakes.

Incidentally, suddenly it occurred to me half way through, the word that really matters is sides. We start everything from the side place.

#### Nonesuch

The normal way, in the old way of doing any of these dances was for one couple to lead and for the rest of the couples to pick it up as it went along. And this dance, it actually happens in today.