





# ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Teaching and Learning Aids

*Richard J. Pargeter*

## Place Bells

- It may be that you find this is a useful way to break the method down for learning.
- Even if you learn the method some other way in the first place, conductors / helpers will often expect you to know what the line is for each place bell.

## Learning the 'Blue Line'

- Some people have a good pictorial memory, and find it easiest to remember the shape of the line.
- Most learn it as a line going down the page, but some find it easier to have first place at the bottom of the page, and the line progressing from left to right.
- Other people find it easier to learn words, eg: "dodge, lead, seconds, dodge lead dodge, two & one at the back, sixths place bell lead & dodge, ..."
- Most of us use a mixture of methods.
- It is not essential to know the structure of the method (place notation), but it can help if it 'makes sense of' the blue line.
- We often use quite illogical rules to remember bits of the blue line, for example the places in the front work (which feel 'chunky') are in the middle, close to the seconds over the treble, and the more spiky 'dodge lead dodge' bits are at the beginning and end. (Well - that makes sense to one 2000+ pealer, anyway!)

## Logical chunks

- Chunks of work (places, back work and front work) don't always fit with place bells, but are more logical pieces to break the method down into. Learn them, and you have 70% of the method.

## Finding your way

- Know where to meet the treble (see the diagrams).
- In places, the first blow of the first place in a pair is over the same bell as the second blow of the second place (you follow bells "ABCA"). See the diagrams.
- Places seem to go on forever. If you're dodging with the treble, you're only half way through. If with someone else, you're just finishing (or you've only just started).

## Place notation

- X ('cross') means that all pairs are swapping in that row
- 12 ('one two') means that bells in positions 1 & 2 don't move, and the other pairs swap in that row.
- Plain Hunt minor is X 16 X 16 X 16 X 16 X 16 X 16
- Plain Bob minor is X 16 X 16 X 16 X 16 X 16 X 12