



2020 Ringing World Pathways



Introduction

Proud owners of a 2020 Ringing World Diary may already have discovered pages 132 and 133; the rest of you have missed your headstart on one of *The Ringing World's* big projects for the year. Part challenge, learning, focus and exploration – and hopefully fun: **2020 Ringing World Pathways** are your chance to join in with the worldwide ringing community this year.

The idea

In 2019 the Ringing World Diary contained a feature called *Method of the Month*. Simon Linford suggested a set of twelve non-standard major methods for 8-bell bands looking for quality and variety; several of the methods had featured in his selections for *Project Pickled Egg*. David Hull compiled some recommended compositions for each method in a monthly introduction article. Lots of people reported working with the MotMs as special methods, and we hope a few of them will have stayed as staples in the repertoire.

This year we wanted to do better at helping people expand their method repertoire. We wanted to involve more ringers, and we wanted to make it easier to participate. Learning a new method every month is a big ask, even for the keenest and most skilled bands, so we wanted to be more realistic, while still setting a bit of a challenge. And we wanted to come up with something fun and flexible, something that we hope ringers will take in different directions according to their own situation. We hope pathways do all these things.

In the last few years, we've also seen ringers step up and ring together for the same event to an unusual degree. Ringing for the centenary of the World War One Armistice was the most remarkable example of this: just under 3,000 performances were posted on *BellBoard* as having been rung on 11th November 2018. These included performances at many towers and from many bands that had never logged anything on *BellBoard* before. Whatever they rang – from rounds and call changes before or after a service to a quarter peal or peal, from St Paul's Cathedral to the smallest churches – they submitted it to join in with the international event. Ringing after the fire at Notre-Dame wasn't anywhere near as prolific, but it was still an example of ringers joining together for a common goal and being proud to log their ringing, whatever it was. We're in support of this, and we hope pathways will unite ringers in a common challenge which they can take pride in.

How it works

There are three pathways: red, blue and yellow. Each pathway is a set of six steps: each step is a method or a group of methods. To complete a pathway, log a 2020 performance of each step on BellBoard, and link it to a pathway subscription. (More about subscriptions and how to use the website in the box elsewhere on this page.)

These performances can be of any length. We're expecting that most people will try and ring quarter peals of each step – a quarter peal is a challenge and a good way of cementing progress with a new method. But you don't have to. Perhaps you'll work through the pathways as training methods at a regular practice, and you just want to log that you've managed to ring a plain course or touch of them. Or if peal ringing is your thing, perhaps you'll want to ring a peal of one or more steps. You can do a mix of performance lengths too.

Options

Some of the steps are more flexible than others. There's most choice on the Red pathway – while most of the pathway is based around six-bell methods, we've created options on some of the steps for you to ring on eight: Step 2 is Single Oxford Bob Triples, and Step 5 is a plain triples method from p.59 or 61 of the diary. We hope that six-bell bands might take the excuse to visit a local eight-bell tower and try some of these out. You don't have to: you only need to do one of the options at each step to complete the pathway.

Articles and Resources

We'll be bringing you helpful articles throughout 2020 on all the steps of the pathways. We've got some great authors lined up to write with ideas, learning tips and compositions. Of course, there are also useful compositions, and some information pages, in your fresh new Ringing World Diary (it's not too late to order one now ...). And if you go to the online page for each step, we're collecting links to useful online resources. Most of these are free – for example, the relevant articles from John Harrison's long-running series *The Learning Curve*, now hosted on the Central Council website. Some of them are *Ringing World* articles, so if you're a subscriber with the appropriate access you should be able to see them for free, or if not you'll be given the option to buy the relevant issue. Or maybe it's a good time to take out a subscription?

If you have any ideas for more resources we could add or link to – perhaps you know of a useful article from the RW archive, or a good website – or if you'd like to write for us, please email us (pathways@ringingworld.co.uk) so we can share them. We're also looking for bands who might write for us about their whole

journey through a pathway – get in touch if you'd like to volunteer!

The pathways

So what's on the pathways? Take a look at the diagram, reproduced from the diary. As mentioned there are three: red, blue and yellow. Each pathway has a suggested starting point (bold/grey) – you don't necessarily have to have rung this, it's just a guide.

The blue pathway is for ringers looking to develop their ringing beyond **Plain Bob Minor** by learning some simple new doubles and minor methods.

The red pathway is aimed at ringers who can ring a **surprise minor method** and who wish to learn more methods on five, six, and optionally seven bells. Steps 2 and 5 on this pathway have a six-bell option and a seven-bell option. You only need to do one of these to complete the pathway.

The yellow pathway takes ringers who can already ring **some surprise major methods** and expands their repertoire on eight bells with both plain and surprise methods.

Fun and flexible

The pathways aren't supposed to be a direct syllabus. We are not claiming that each step is more difficult than the last. In fact, occasionally we've deliberately done what we think might be the opposite. Partly this is because grading method difficulty is controversial, and sometimes isn't possible; partly because for some of the methods their inclusion is more about putting them in the repertoire; and partly just because we thought it would be more fun. You don't even have to ring them in the order we've suggested –

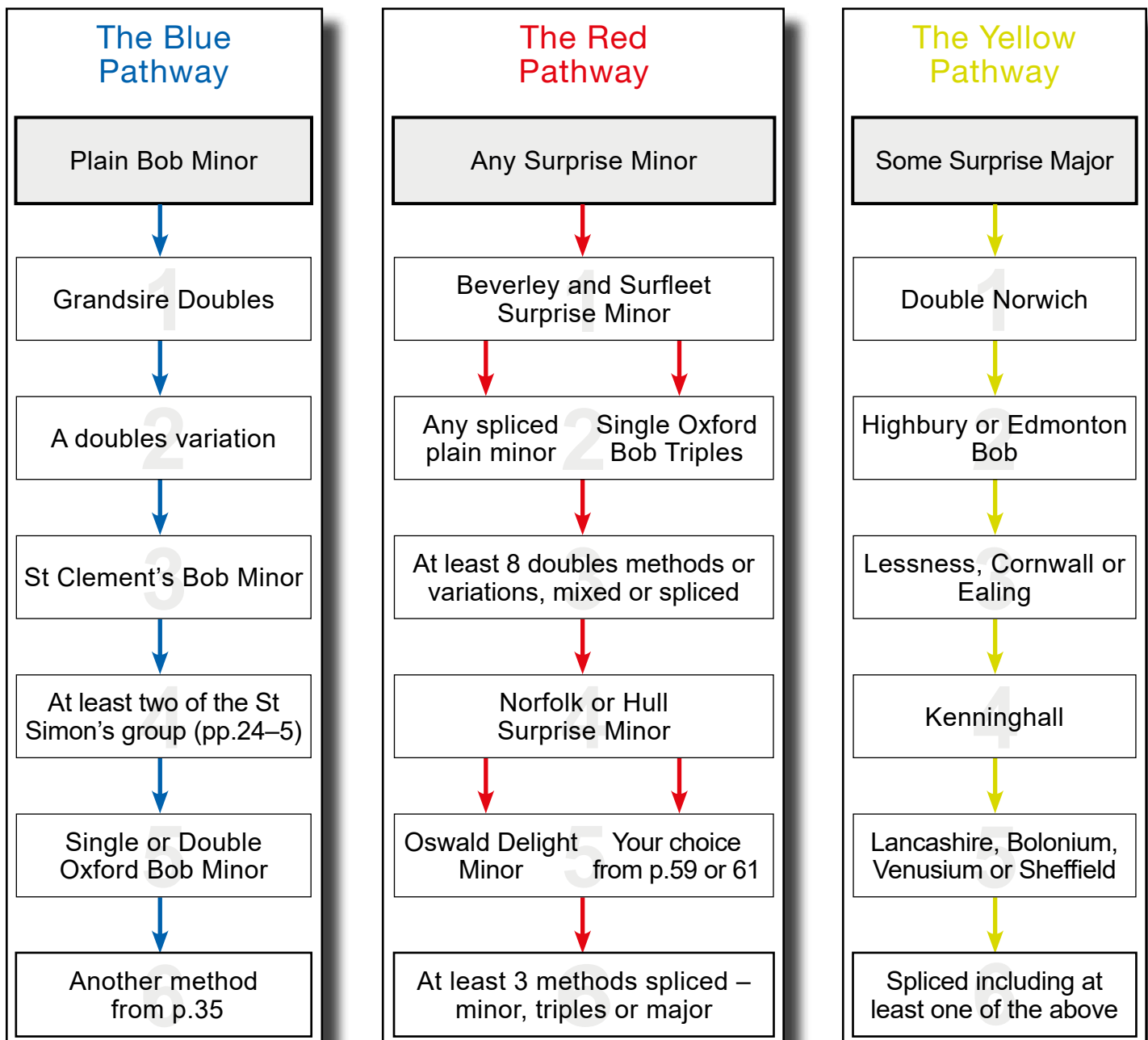
Subscribing to a pathway

- Go to bb.ringingworld.co.uk/pathways
- Click on 'Blue Pathway', 'Red Pathway' or 'Yellow Pathway'
- Click 'Subscribe' at the bottom
- Name your pathway subscription

Pathway subscription names: Other people will be able to follow your progress when you start associating performances with steps on the pathway, so give your pathway a meaningful name. (We reserve the right to change name if the name chosen does not identify you or your band sufficiently, so please don't name it "My pathway" or "St John's tower pathway", but rather "John Smith" or "St John's, Johnston".)

You can subscribe to the same pathway multiple times. You might want to do this if, for example, you want to track your personal progress on the pathway as well as documenting the quarter peals at your home tower or by a specific band.

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you'll be able to link performances in any order to your pathway subscription, as long as they're rung in 2020.

We hope even the most proficient method ringers will find ways of stretching themselves on any of the pathways. Some of the steps are deliberately vague for that very reason. For example, Step 4 on the Blue pathway is ringing 'At least two of the St Simon's group'. That means you could just ring St Simon's Doubles and St Martin's Doubles – perhaps an extent of each, one after the other – and you'd be done. But there are sixteen methods in the St Simon's group (as explained on pp.24–5 of the 2020 Diary), so if you need some stretching perhaps you

This article will be available to download for free from *BellBoard*. Tell your friends about it!

could ring them all in the same quarter peal. Two of the steps are about ringing doubles variations, and there's a whole world of variety there if you're keen. Some other ideas:

- See how quickly you can complete a whole pathway from start to finish
- Conduct a whole pathway yourself
- Make sure every step is a 'first' for you or someone in the band
- Find ways of stretching yourself on each step

And of course it doesn't matter if you don't finish a pathway. For some bands and ringers, taking the first few steps on one of the pathways will be an achievement and a chance to explore some different methods.

"I don't like this."

Good! Please write in and tell us why (pathways@ringingworld.co.uk). Tell us

how you'd do it differently, or why pathways aren't working for you. That should be a good lesson in how ringing is really working in different places and for different people, or how we can improve *BellBoard*. And while these specific pathways are just for 2020, we hope it's an idea that might work again in future, with different methods at different levels, so we'd like feedback on how we can improve for next time.

Conclusion

It's a big project to take in all at once. Head to the pathways page to have a look around. As mentioned above, only 2020 performances will count, so you've got a few weeks to start making plans, or be in touch if you've got any questions. We'll be printing regular updates in *The Ringing World*.

We're excited, and we hope you are too – good luck!

WILL BOSWORTH