



Leading your Church into Growth

September 2012

Our occasional Newsletter

LYCiG is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through a really full year.

- We did not run Walsingham this year but we are running it in the Spring of 2013
- Our June High Leigh conference, the smaller of our two nationals, was up 10% on last years' and delivered really great quality and a deep experience.
- We have already done two full and well received follow-up days so far with a 3rd one planned for the West Midlands in October.
- Our November conference is already so full that we have booked extra capacity for it.
- The Leicester conference ran again in June and we are set to run a Ripon & Leeds conference in October.
- We have set on two new and much younger team members this year.
- Earlier this year we launched "Moving On" as a sequel to "Start". Moving On is based on the Seven Steps of Discipleship. Ideal for confirmation/adult baptism prep and just for taking the church members to the next deeper step.
- Planning ahead we are proposing a DVD "teach yourself" course. This will be called "LYCiG Local", it will be in the style of "Start" and "Moving On" and we hope it will be ready for Spring 2013.
- Looking ahead we have got a further 7 Dioceses planning a LYCiG training course for 2013/14

So events at our end are developing, busy and probably over-stretching us. Given that the Church of England is suddenly going for growth in a big way and setting up serious money to resource it we had hoped to benefit. In fact this has so far not happened. Nevertheless we keep doing our own fund raising and God is generous, supportive and resourceful. So we keep going.

As well as being a LYCiG team member I am also a parish priest and for my local church it is *that time of year again* – twice a year , three times in a good year, we run a Start course. At the moment we are at the "putting together our invitation list" stage. We are prayfully and hungrily putting names on paper, producing a bright and attractive flyer and then going round to visit and invite people. I know that we will have some disappointments, some of rejection and pain, but I also know that we will have some great surprises. If I have about 20 names on my list I can anticipate a group of 10 to 12, gradually settling down to about 8. I recently met two vicars both doing Start and both much better at it than I am. The clearly

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get more people attending and better responses. One in a very affluent commuter village and the other in a demanding West Midland context.

It is a bit humbling to find people much better at it than myself, but only because I am a very egotistical person. Praise God for them. They will have their 20-30, I will have my 8-12 – a bit like David and Saul.

Finally if you haven't yet discovered "Moving On" then you need to. Early feedback is very positive from a growing number of churches.

Thank you and please remember to pray for us.

God Bless
Robin Gamble