



## West Midlands Synod LYCiG consultant

My name is Ashley Evans and I have recently been appointed to West Midlands as Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) Consultant/encourager.

It is a great opportunity to serve God and seek to encourage the church to reach out with the good news that Jesus Christ came to save us.

So, what does a LYCiG encourager do?

The simple answer is...I'm here to be your encourager with use of Church growth principles set out in 'Leading Your Church into Growth'.

A bit of background about me:

I am married to Katie, and we live in Bradford.

I have three sons, two of which are married, and we have 3 granddaughters.

I was brought up in the church as my father was a URC minister (retired).

I have a passion for seeing people come to know Jesus and live the Jesus life.

I've read loads of books, I've been on all sorts of training programmes, done missions and door knocking. I've handed out leaflets, sung songs...I've even been the lead singer in a Christian rock band. I've led big multi-media events, run enquirers' courses and interactive plays and I've preached to thousands of people, but I know that all this is only part of the whole work of Jesus Christ. I've realised that we have to have some key guiding principles as part of our being.

I have come to know that the word evangelism can come loaded with things we think it means, but what I think it means is to communicate the good news, with the effect that people who don't know Jesus become followers and live the Jesus life.

I suppose that over the weeks and months we will journey together, to search for God's way. To be obedient to Him and know that it is He that adds to our number, but first we must be faithful to Him and His ways.

My prayer is that we would see revival!

The word I believe I have received from God is to call all people to Himself.

For those who have wandered ...to return,

For those who have become tired and downcast...to have a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit.

For those of us, who have got into bad habits...to be set free!

**We are called to live Holy lives and invite others to join us.**

*<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*