

Learning about a growing Church

CLERGY and lay leaders from 39 of our parishes will take part in a three-day conference this month on church growth.

Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) will happen from October 19-21 at the Old Thorns Hotel in Liphook.

More than 100 delegates will learn about the strategy behind church growth, how to develop a culture of invitation and welcome, and how to share our stories to help people meet Jesus.

The sessions include input from the LYCIG team and exercises to help our parishes develop their vision further.

It's the second time our diocese has invited delegates to a residential LYCIG conference. A similar number of clergy and lay leaders attended a conference in October last year. Across both conferences, 80 per cent of our benefices will be represented.

Last year's delegates continued the work with their own congregations, applying the principles via sessions called LYCIG Local. They were also invited to a series of follow-up sessions. The latest of those is happening on October 6 from 7.30pm-9pm, and is repeated on October 7 at 10am-2pm, both at St Jude's Church, Southsea.

Charles Hipsley and David Lawrence, from the London Contemporary Institute of Christianity, will speak about 'Whole Life Discipleship and the Local Church'.

Joint church will mark its 50 years

IT all started when Methodists and Anglicans started worshipping together – and built a new church.

Fifty years later, Hart Plain Church is celebrating five decades of worship and outreach with a year of special events. And worshippers are also looking forward to an exciting future.

The exact anniversary of the opening of the church will take place on Sunday 3 December. Bishop Christopher and the Rev Dr Andrew Wood, who chairs Southampton District Methodists, will join worshippers for a 50th anniversary Communion service. Anyone with a previous connection to the church is being invited.

That will mark the climax of 12 months of special events, which have included a Valentine-themed barn dance, a 1960s party night and a special summer fete.

On September 30, BBC Radio Solent's Tim Daykin was due to join them for a Harvest Brunch in church from 9.30am, to talk about his radio career and ministry.

The church's Harvest Festival service on October 1 includes the chance to give donations of dried and tinned food that will be shared between the Waterlooville Foodbank and the Sunday Suppers for the homeless at St Simon's Church, Southsea.

There is also a concert by the



Worshippers from Hart Plain Church enjoyed a special summer fete as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations

band Dragonfly on the evening of December 2 and a Christmas market on November 18 to look forward to.

During the celebration year, the church has committed itself to praying for every household in their parish. Cards are posted through letter boxes in different

streets each week, inviting people to send their prayer requests to church. Then each Sunday, those prayers are included in the morning service.

Anglican minister the Rev Kate Macfarlane said: "This year has been a great opportunity for us to raise the profile of Hart Plain

Church in our local community and we've been pleased to welcome many people to our special events.

"We're looking forward to welcoming both old and new friends to join us for our anniversary weekend in December and are committed to continuing to serve our community for many years to come."

Hart Plain Church began in the 1960s when some members of Purbrook Methodist Church started holding services in a local school to serve the growing housing development in the north of Waterlooville.

They were then joined by members of St Wilfrid's C of E Church in Cowplain. In 1964, a site for a new church was secured and building work started in 1967.

The new church was opened on Advent Sunday 1967, and has continued ever since as a Local Ecumenical Partnership of Anglicans and Methodists serving the community of Hart Plain.

More details can be found on www.hartplain.org.uk

Pompey Chimes

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Children enjoying the teddy bears' picnic at All Saints Church, Denmead

Fun, food, friendship and teddies

MORE than 90 adults and children gathered at All Saints Church, Denmead, for a fun-filled teddy bears' picnic.

This new initiative, which was led by the vicar, the Rev Emma Racklyeft, saw young families from across the village invited to share in a summer afternoon.

They enjoyed party games, face-painting, crafts, singing, bubbles, picnic food and ice creams, as a way of building and strengthening friendships.

Everyone brought their favourite bear or cuddly toy to join in the fun.

One mum, Kate Rogers said: "We were thrilled to be

invited to this teddy bears' picnic, and have had such a fantastic afternoon, our little girls have loved it.

"My partner and I have enjoyed getting to know others, who like us, have had their child baptised recently."

The church plans to repeat the event next summer.