

**By ANDREW  
CHATFIELD**

THE jubilant team of Christians behind victorious Radio Wye now faces the task of raising the remaining £57,000 they need to launch Wycombe's brand new radio station, on September 1.

The Radio Authority last week selected the Wye bid above three others to broadcast on the 1170 medium wave frequency to High Wycombe and surrounding towns. Signals will carry up to an estimated 30km by day, 18km at night.

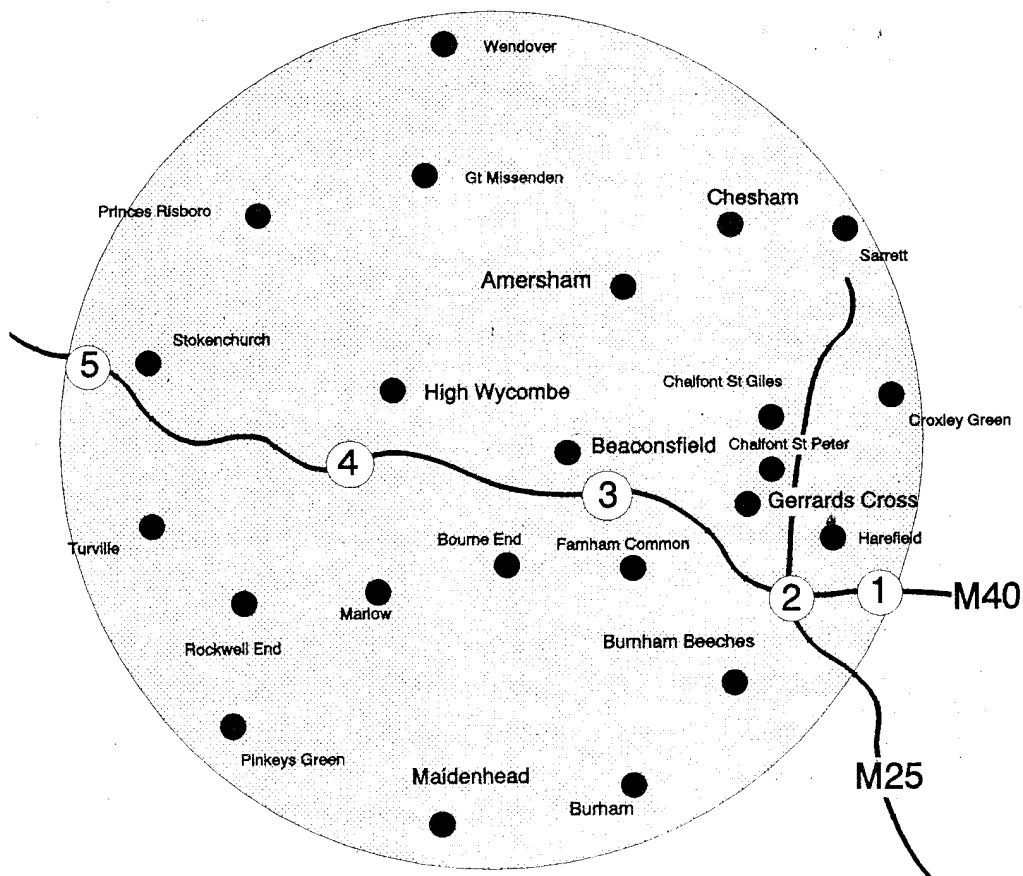
Wye, chaired by entertainer Roy Castle, will be the first UK radio station with a full, eight-year licence to be owned and run by Christians.

Wycombe Wanderers sales and marketing manager Mark Austin, who is an executive director of Radio Wye and likely to be the group's managing director, thanked not only the group's many supporters, but also the Big Broadcaster in the sky.

"I would like to give God some credit, as well. We could not have done it without God," said Mark, 30, of Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield.

Despite its church origins, Radio Wye has consistently denied it will be "churchy" or evangelical, and its programming plan confirms this. It has a mix of national and local news, strong issue-based features and phone-ins, a daily two-hour arts/music slot, live sports coverage and a rock gospel show – the only major overtly-religious element. An Action Desk will pursue projects.

The Radio Authority team met the Wye team this week and suggested the production of a planned daily access slot,



**The region that will be able to pick up Radio Wye's signals in September**

where the public airs its views, would be too time-consuming. The feature is likely now to be weekly.

Wye's Christian roots are shaping its style and ethos. There will be an emphasis on family values and a commitment to social issues, and no swearing or blasphemy on air. It is being set up through cash gifts and interest-free loans. Profits will go to charity.

Mark Austin said: "We want to provide a lifestyle alternative,

a radio station that people will identify with because it stands out and stands up for goodness, wholeness and family values," Roy Castle epitomised its tone, he added.

The station aims to be based on the Wye Industrial Estate, off the London Road, in High Wycombe. In the next few months, Wye must:

■ Raise the last £57,000 of its setting-up costs, on top of the £174,000 already collected in cash, signed pledges and plan-

ned interest-free loans;

● Win planning permission for, and then install, its studio and transmission equipment;

● Sign programming pledges and Radio Authority guidelines;

● Recruit paid and voluntary staff;

● Begin taping material.

Wye is still looking for donations and will be running a scheme for volunteers, including a contract and full training. For details, ring (0494) 524857.