

Dear Member

This AIF News Bulletin contains articles about the following:

1. AIF Jubilee Weekend
2. World Meeting of Families
3. CTE Forum 2018
4. The German Bishops' Proposed Guidelines for Eucharistic Sharing in Interchurch Families: a short introduction to Ruth Reardon's paper on the same subject (attached to this Bulletin).

You should also find, attached as separate documents:

- Booking Information for the AIF Jubilee Weekend
- An explanation of the help that is available with the cost of attending the AIF Weekend
- A paper on the "German Bishops' Proposed Guidelines on Eucharistic Sharing in Interchurch Families" by Ruth Reardon
- A paper entitled "What about the Children? What were the fears and hopes of interchurch parents for their children in 1970, and have developments over 50 years any relevance for the church today?" This paper by Doral Hayes was originally presented at the recent INTAMS Symposium and will shortly be published in *One In Christ*. For more information about the INTAMS Symposium event see: <http://www.intams.org/>

Thank you for returning your data consent forms to the office. If you are in touch with any AIF members who say they have not heard from us, please do remind them to return their form to the office.

If you have any news or articles to share with members, please continue to send them to me and do continue to check the website and our Facebook and Twitter pages for information and articles between the bulletins.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for the Association and its work. If you have any questions about any of the information in the bulletin, please contact me.

With best wishes

Doral Hayes
Executive Development Officer



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Association of Interchurch Families, 10 Aldersgate Street, EC1A 4HJ
info@interchurchfamilies.org.uk Tel: 020 3384 2947. www.interchurchfamilies.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 283811

Presidents: The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Bishop Tim Thornton, The Free Churches Moderator, Rev Dr Hugh Osgood and Dr Ruth Reardon

1. AIF Jubilee Weekend 2018 – 13-14 OCTOBER 2018

Plans are now well underway for the AIF Jubilee Weekend which will be a very special weekend marking the 50th Anniversary of the Association.

The weekend will take the theme of Jubilee and we hope that many friends and members will join us to celebrate the work of the Association. The programme is still being finalised but there will be a Evensong service led by Bishop Tim Thornton and Archbishop Bernard on the Saturday evening followed by a drinks reception and a celebratory dinner with our special guests. Our list of special guests currently includes the following friends of the Association.

- **Archbishop Bernard Longley**
- **Bishop Tim Thornton**
- **Dame Mary Tanner**
- **Rev Dr Callan Slipper, National Ecumenical Officer Church of England**
- **Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**
- **Rev. Dr Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of Churches Together in England**
- **Fr Dominic Robinson**
- **Dr Elizabeth Davies, Marriage Care**
- **Prof. Thomas Knieps Port Le Roi, Chair of INTAMS and Co-ordinator of the Interchurch Families International Network**
- **Brenden and Laura Thompson**

In the spirit of the biblical theme of Jubilee and to enable more members to attend the AIF Jubilee Weekend the trustees have agreed to keep the price for the weekend at the same level as last year for adults and to allow all children in full-time education to attend at no cost!

In addition, there is also financial help available in the form of grants (or loans) - applications are heartily encouraged as we want as many people as possible to be able to join us for this very special weekend. We don't want anyone to stay away just because of the cost. A leaflet explaining more about the fund that supports members to attend our weekend is attached.

A booking form for the AIF 2018 Jubilee Weekend is attached to this bulletin and is also available to download from the AIF website.

2. World Meeting of Families 2018 –22 -26 August 2018

Richard and Melanie Finch, Janet and Antony Denman, Malcolm and Josie Green as well as Doral, her husband Declan and their children Amelia and Dylan are planning to attend the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Dublin. This event is open to families and children attend free with a registered adult. More information is available at the website for the gathering <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/>.



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In a nutshell, the Gathering will focus on the theme of *'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World'* and will include a three day Theological-Pastoral Congress from Wed 22 to Fri 24 August with a programme of keynote speakers, workshops, talks, testimonies and discussions. This will be followed on Sat 25 August by the Festival of Families: a special concert-style event and concluding on Sunday 26 August with a solemn Mass that will be celebrated by Pope Francis.

AIF will have a stand in the exhibition space at the main venue and so will be sharing the experiences of interchurch families and talking about the work of the Association with those attending the meeting.

If any other members are interesting in attending please visit the website shown on the previous page and organise your own bookings and travel arrangements but please do let the office know that you are planning to attend as we hope that any members who are going could meet and share time together.

3. CTE Forum – 17 -19 September 2018

The CTE Forum happens every three years and is a delegate conference, bringing together over 300 representatives of Churches Together in England's Member Churches, Intermediate Bodies, Co-ordinating Groups and Bodies in Association. All six of CTE's Presidents will also attend the Forum.

The Association will be fortunate in having several representatives at the next Forum this September; Lucy Docherty, Anna Nugent, Catherine Howe and Doral Hayes will all be present and there is a marketplace where we can display our literature and talk to people. For more information about the Forum please visit the CTE website

https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/276811/Home/Resources/2018_Forum/Forum_2018_overview/Forum_2018_overview.aspx

4. German Bishops' Proposed Guidelines for Eucharistic Sharing in Interchurch Families: a short introduction by Ruth Reardon to her paper (attached to this bulletin).

Attached to this Bulletin is a piece I have written for *One in Christ* (OIC) under this title. The new editor was short of material and as I'd been collecting news reports since February when the news about the German guidelines first appeared, I thought I could put something together on this subject. (OIC is also planning to publish the English ARC piece attached to the March News Bulletin, as well as Doral's presentation to the INTAMS conference at Louvain on 'Troubled Love' in April. So we are doing our best to fill a hole and keep up our traditional AIF links with OIC.)

It was actually much more difficult to write this piece than I expected. The information came out piecemeal, often with a very negative slant. Leaked documents had to be fitted into the story backwards. My first version ended with the German Bishops going home from their 3 May meeting in Rome, apparently expected to do all they could to come to a unanimous view. That had to be

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revised when the subsequent letter from Rome to them was leaked. Too late to include has come another addition to the story – Pope Francis' answer to a question during the inflight press conference he gave on 21 June when returning from his visit to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, celebrating their 70 years. It is a reassuring answer – but puzzling.

I've tried to stick to the verifiable facts; it seems unwise to do much speculating in a constantly changing situation. There has been plenty of that, with passionate commentaries on both sides of the debate. What particularly puzzles me is that the whole discussion now seems to be going back to the Code of Canon Law (1983) as though the Ecumenical Directory (1993) never existed. All the questions that we went over and over in the 1990's following the appearance of the Directory seem to have resurfaced again.

Don't let's be discouraged though. It's good that the whole question is going to be studied again at world level – as it never was at the 2014/15 Synods on the Family. My hope is that we shall get away from 'occasions' in favour of 'exceptional cases', but at present we can have little idea of how things will eventually play out.

We do know that the German bishops' initiative and the strong opposition it has met with has now moved the issue to the world level and pushed it up the agenda. So we have another opportunity to play our part in contributing our experience to a discussion that is re-activated once more. Kathy Pope had a letter to *The Tablet* published after the German bishops' proposal was reported in the press (21 April), and I had one printed a few weeks later (19 May). However, neither letter started a correspondence. There will surely be many opportunities for interchurch families to put their point of view, both in the press and in talking to others, as the debate develops.



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