

Dear Member

This AIF News Bulletin contains essential information for AIF members including exciting news about the forthcoming AIF Jubilee Weekend and crucial information about the **GDPR which includes details of action all members need to take if we are going to continue to keep in touch with you.**

Please do take a few minutes to hear about what has been happening and what is coming up later this year.

1. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – urgent action needed (please also see separate letter and consent form attached)
2. AIF Jubilee Weekend – 13th and 14th October 2018
3. World Gathering of Families – 2018
4. Executive Development Officer Report by Doral Hayes
5. English ARC Report by Ruth Reardon (attached as a separate document)

If you have any news or articles to share with members please do continue to send them into the office.

Please do continue to check the website and our Facebook and Twitter pages for information and articles between the member's bulletins.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for the Association and its work and I do hope that you will join us in October for the AIF Jubilee Weekend. If you have any questions about any of the information in the bulletin please do 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

AIF NEWS BULLETIN 1/18 March

1. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – urgent action needed (please also see separate letter and consent form attached)

Attached with this mailing is a very important letter from Paul Docherty regarding the **GDPR which requires a response from each individual member (not couple or family)** about the processing of personal information by the Association.

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER AND RESPOND EITHER BY EMAIL OR BY POST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, A CONSENT FORM IS ALSO ATTACHED AS A WORD FILE FOR EASE OF RESPONSE.

This letter is also being sent out in the post to all the people whose data is held by the Association as it is a statutory requirement that we have your consent to hold and process your personal data.

2. AIF Jubilee Weekend 2018 – 13TH -14TH 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 together to celebrate the work of the Association. The programme is still being developed but we know that there will be a drinks reception on the Saturday evening followed by a celebratory dinner with our special guests.

Already confirmed as attending are:

- **Archbishop Bernard Longley**
- **Bishop Tim Thornton**
- **Rev Dr Callan Slipper, National Ecumenical Officer Church of England**
- **Rev Bob Fyfe General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**
- **Fr Dominic Robinson**

A number of other special guests have been invited and as it becomes clear who can be with us the conference pages on the AIF website will be updated, members will also be updated in future editions of AIF News Bulletin.

In the spirit of the biblical theme of Jubilee and to enable more members to attend the AIF Jubilee Weekend the trustees have agreed not only to keep the price for the weekend the same as last year for adults and that all children (those under 18) will go FREE! In addition to this the bursary is still available.

More information will be sent out about the AIF Jubilee Weekend along with details of the bursary together with a booking form in the next few weeks in a separate mailing.

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3. World Meeting of Families 2018 – August 22nd -26th 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/>.

AIF will have a stand in the exhibition space at the main venue and so have the opportunities to share the experiences of interchurch families and talk about the work of the Association with those attending the meeting. As you may have heard in the news last week Pope Francis is also scheduled to be in Dublin for the weekend of the meeting which will make this event even more special.

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

The World Gathering of Families 2018 is on the theme of *'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World'* and will include a three day Theological-Pastoral Congress from Wed to Fri 22-24 August with a programme of keynote speakers, workshops, talks, testimonies and discussions, followed on Sat 25 August by the Festival of Families: a special concert-style event and concluding on Sunday 26 August with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration which we understand will be taken by Pope Francis.

4. Executive Development Officer Report by Doral Hayes

As well as highlighting several key activities since the start of the year I wanted to share with you all some personal news which I believe is also positive for the Association and my work with and for you all.

As of 1st May 2018 as well as continuing in my role as Executive Development Officer I will start working as Ecumenical Facilitator for Church Together in Hertfordshire. I am very much looking forward to this new role and as I know there are several AIF members in Hertfordshire I look forward to working more with them locally. This role also dovetails with my current work with CTE and I have received a very favourable response from our colleagues at CTE about this new appointment which is most encouraging.

Secondly, I have received an invitation from the Archbishop of Canterbury to be a member of the English Anglican Roman Catholic Committee for the next five-year period. The committee meets twice a year, with the first meeting this July, it is a huge privilege to be asked to serve in this way and I will do my best to contribute positively to the Committee as well as represent interchurch families.

AIF London Meeting and AGM

It was a pleasure to see so many AIF members at the London Meeting and AGM this year and we were pleased to have the company of AIF and CTE President and Free Church Moderator Rev Dr Hugh Osgood for the whole day. After the AGM, where we shared reports of the Associations activities across 2017, Hugh Osgood led us in a Free Church communion service followed by lunch and time to catch up with friends and

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talk more to Hugh who was keen to hear about members experience across the churches. After lunch Hugh Osgood shared some of his story as well as his view of the current ecumenical scene in England. Hugh Osgood is very keen to support AIF and as he will continue to be the Free Church Moderator for a further term of four years this is particularly heartening. Despite the many challenges to ecumenism he stated that he continued to be “optimistic about unity” and his positive and energetic attitude was an encouragement to the members who were present.

CTE and CTBI

In January, Lucy Docherty and I attended a meeting of the Bodies in Association with CTE and CTBI, this was my first as Chair of the Bodies in Association. I have also had the opportunity to meet with David Cornick, General Secretary of CTE to discuss the role and potential of AIF and the other Bodies in the broader picture of ecumenical activity in England. David Cornick retires in September but I hope to continue this positive relationship with the new General Secretary Paul Goodlife when he takes up his post later in the year. Lucy Docherty continues to sit on the CTE Enabling Group we represent both AIF at the CTE Forum in September.

In late November I attended a CTBI Work Programme Consultation where I had the opportunity to speak to a number of national ecumenical officers about AIF and the broader work of CTBI. I also continue to be part of the CTBI working group for the resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and just last week attended a very creative and useful forty-eight-hour meeting in Leeds.

AIF continues to have good relationships with all the staff at CTE and CTBI and they continue to be supportive of AIF and our role within the ecumenical scene more broadly.

INTAMS Symposium 26 – 28 April 2018

I am fortunate to be attending the INTAMs symposium entitled *Troubled Love: Theology and Pastoral Care for all Families in Leuven* next month and am currently finalising a paper for presentation to present as part of the parallel paper sessions.

The title for the paper is *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 will also act as a starting point for my MA dissertation project and larger piece of work reflecting on the lived experience of interchurch children.

I am very grateful to Ruth Reardon for her expertise and ideas and also for her diligent archiving of material which has allowed much easier access to the sources for this paper and I am also grateful to all those AIF members who have shared their stories over the years and in doing so added much needed real experiences to the theological discussion.

5. English ARC Report by Ruth Reardon (attached as a separate document)

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