

Dates

The 18th British Reformed Fellowship (BRF) Family Holiday Conference begins on Saturday, 1 August, with arrival at the castle after 4 PM and dinner at 6 PM, and ends with departure from the castle by 10 AM on Saturday, 8 August (DV).

Programme

The 6 main speeches on “Knowing God,” the special lecture and the 2 Lord’s day services will be delivered in the evenings and some mornings. The 17th Biennial General Meeting of the BRF will also take place during the conference. Ample time will be available for fellowship and various on-site activities, as well as 2 day trips.

Speakers

- *Rev. Ron Hanko* - Emeritus Pastor in the Protestant Reformed Churches in America
- *Prof. Brian Huizinga* - Professor of Dogmatics and Old Testament, Protestant Reformed Seminary, Michigan, USA

Addresses

1. Knowing Our Glorious God (Rev. Hanko)
 2. Knowing Our Sovereign God (Prof. Huizinga)
 3. Knowing Our Creator God (Rev. Hanko)
 4. Knowing Our Faithful God (Prof. Huizinga)
 5. Knowing Our Righteous God (Rev. Hanko)
 6. Knowing Our Merciful God (Prof. Huizinga)
- Special Lecture: Henry Cooke: Ulster’s Athanasius - Rev. Angus Stewart

Venue

Built in 1856, Castlewellan Castle stands above an 80-acre lake in approximately 1,300 acres (643 hectares) of forest park in the northern foothills of the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland. These beautiful premises are located some 30 miles south of Belfast and approximately 4 miles from the Irish Sea coast at Newcastle, County Down.

Travel

- *By air:* The nearest major airports to the conference centre are Belfast City (Harbour) Airport (BHD), Belfast International (Aldergrove) Airport (BFS) and Dublin Airport (DUB). Castlewellan is about 50 minutes from Belfast City Airport, 60 minutes from Belfast International Airport and 90 minutes from Dublin Airport. If you are flying within the British Isles or Europe, some discount airlines are available to these airports (e.g., www.easyjet.com and www.ryanair.com).
- *By bus:* Buses are available from the airports and elsewhere to Castlewellan via Newcastle and Newry. More information on public transportation can be found on the conference website (www.brfconference.weebly.com) or through Translink (www.translink.co.uk).
- *By road:* The town of Castlewellan is located about 4 miles from Newcastle. The entrance to the Forest Park and Castle is at the highest part of the town of Castlewellan, opposite the town hall. Once in the park, follow the signs for the “Conference Centre.”

Accommodation

- Bed linen and towels are provided.
- There are about 14 en-suite rooms (rooms with an adjoining toilet and shower) available with beds for 2-6 people—first-come, first-served, so book early. Six of the en-suite rooms are on the same floor as the dining hall and meeting room, eliminating the need to climb stairs. Of these six, two are wheelchair accessible.
- Standard rooms vary in size and sleep 2-10 people in twin, double and/or bunk beds. All standard rooms have wash hand basins in the room. Toilets and showers are a short distance from the room on the same floor.
- Due to the expected demand, *single rooms are not available*. Rooms will be “shared” by 2 or more people, with couples and families given their own room.

Prices (all full board, i.e., includes all meals)

- Child Standard: free (0-3 years), £170 (4-7), £250 (8-11), £310 (12-18)
- Adult Shared *Standard*: £380/person • Adult Shared *En-Suite*: £490/person

Day Trips by Coach

- *Day Trip A:* Silent Valley Reservoir and Newcastle. Option 1: Spend the morning at the reservoir which has short walks, a small museum, cafe and play park. The bus will then bring to you Newcastle with its beach, promenade, shops, etc. Option 2: Guided hike 10 miles from Silent Valley by mountains and lakes to Newcastle.
- *Day Trip B:* Guided tour of Killyleagh, a sea-side village which was home to several important historical figures, including Ulster’s Athanasius and the “inventor of chocolate,” plus explore picturesque Hillsborough, with its castle (residence of the British royal family when in Northern Ireland), fort, forest, lake, etc.
- Payment for the coach is only £5 per trip. Please indicate on the booking form if you intend to go on the trips (and option 1 or 2 for Trip A) and include payment.

On-Site Activities

- Games room with table tennis, table football and air hockey
- Beautiful gardens and an arboretum just a short stroll from the castle
- One of the world’s largest hedge row mazes
- Over 10 miles of nature trails for hiking
- Mountain bikes, kayaks and canoes can be hired on-site (www.onegreatadventure.com), and pony trekking is available nearby (www.mountpleasantcentre.com)
- Castlewellan town—only a 15-20 minute walk away

Other Amenities

- In the main areas of the castle there is free (and vastly improved) wifi
- The Cellars (open in the evenings) sells local ice cream, confectionary, etc.
- Laundry facilities are available at the castle, although cheaper in the town of Castlewellan
- If high chairs and cots for infants are needed, please contact the booking secretary
- Camping is available on site (www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/castlewellan-forest-park)

Day visitors are very welcome. Nearer the event, please contact the booking secretary for the conference programme and prices for meals.