

Cost per Person

Resident: £275 per person

Non-resident: £60 for Thursday (includes meals); £45 for Wednesday or Friday

Online participation: £15 per day

Full fee is payable at the time of booking.

Closing date for bookings is **15 May 2025** (later bookings may be possible but cannot be guaranteed).

In the event of cancellation, return of booking fees will be dependent on the venue's decision.



The courtyard at Luther King House



The John Rylands Library, Deansgate

Brethren Archivists' and Historians' Network
www.brethrenhistory.org

Aims to:

- Support the development of archives of the history of the Christian Brethren, the deposit of material in such archives, and to make their resources better known.
- Encourage research into Brethren history worldwide, to assist those writing on such topics and encourage cooperation, and to promote greater understanding of the development of the movement.
- Support the publication and circulation of historical works on the Brethren, and to increase awareness of them.

Manchester Piccadilly is on the West Coast Main Line from London Euston, and enjoys an excellent train service. Manchester Oxford Road receives trains from many other parts of the UK.

The nearest international airport is Manchester, from where there is a rail link into the city.

For driving directions, see:
<https://lutherkinghouse.co.uk/contact>.

12th International Brethren History Conference



The University of Manchester
John Rylands Research
Institute and Library

Bicentenary Conference: Chief Men and Women among the Brethren

Luther King House

Brighton Grove

Manchester M14 5JP

25-27 June 2025

The earliest groups which developed into the Brethren movement met in Dublin from about 1825. This residential conference therefore begins a celebration of the movement's bicentenary.

The conference will take a biographical theme. Henry Pickering's *Chief Men among the Brethren* (1918, 2nd ed. 1931) has been highly influential within the movement, and exemplifies a literary genre which Brethren have continued to love: biography, especially collective biography of exemplary individuals. Such writings, both books and series of magazine articles, illustrate and inculcate key themes in Brethren spirituality and practice, sometimes by challenging alternative views.

Who was chosen for biographical treatment in collective works? Perhaps equally importantly, who was omitted? What do these works say about Brethren understandings of history and of the movement's history, and about the world in which the subjects lived? More broadly, what impact have biographies had? What intents lay behind biographies of Brethren women? What about memoirs by those who have left the movement? These and other questions invite exploration.

Five plenary addresses will explore aspects of the theme. We also welcome offers of twenty-minute papers on relevant topics, including neglected figures, ones who lived after the publication of Pickering's second edition, or ones from countries other than Britain and Ireland. Following the success of our recent mixed-mode conferences, this residential conference will again allow for in-person and online participation. We welcome papers for presentation in absentia; it will also be possible to present online. A selection of the papers will be edited and published as a volume in the *Studies in Brethren History* series.

If you wish to offer a paper, please send your proposal to the conference organizer, Dr Tim Grass (tgrass.work@gmail.com), as soon as possible, and definitely by 15 April 2025. Please provide a title and short outline (up to 150 words) of your proposed topic.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday 25 June

- 15.00 Welcome and Plenary 1: Prof Eugenio Biagini, title to be announced
- 16.15 Refreshments
- 16.45 Breakout session 1
- 18.00 Dinner
- 19.30 Plenary 2: Dr Tereza Ward (CBA Curator), *Women in the Christian Brethren Archive: The Case of Fanny Grattan Guinness*

Thursday 26 June

- 07.30 onwards Breakfast
- 09.00 Prayers (optional)
- 09.30 Plenary 3: Dr Roger Holden, *The Life of James Taylor Senior*
- 10.30 Refreshments
- 11.00 Breakout session 2
- 13.00 Lunch
- Coach to the John Rylands Library, Deansgate
- 14.15 Public Lecture: Prof David Bebbington, *Chief Men among the Brethren*
- 15.15 Refreshments
- 15.45 Viewing of the Brethren Bicentenary exhibition, featuring items from the Christian Brethren Archive

- 17.30 Buffet meal

Return to Luther King House

- 19.30 Breakout session 3

Friday 27 June

- 07.30 onwards Breakfast
- 09.00 Prayers (optional)
- 09.30 Breakout session 4
- 10.30 Refreshments
- 11.00 Plenary 4: Dr Janice Holmes, *Material and Immaterial in Biographies of Brethren Evangelism*
- 12.00 Review and future plans
- 12.30 lunch and depart

BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

I will attend as a resident

I am happy to share with _____

I wish to attend as a non-resident

I wish to participate online

Please send me BAHN's guidelines for papers

I am / am not happy for BAHN to keep me informed of future events (*delete as applicable*).

Please give details of any dietary restrictions or mobility limitations:

Book online (preferred) at

brethrenhistory.org/conferences.htm

OR return this form to bahn@partnershipuk.org

OR post to: Dr Tim Grass, 26 Fairway Drive, Ramsey, ISLE OF MAN, IM8 2BB

Payment may be by one of the following methods:

£ sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank, payable to 'Partnership (UK) Ltd', sent with your booking

Online by Credit Card (via Stripe) at

<https://buy.stripe.com/14kcPD9rW44o5ry6oo>. In the box requesting an invoice number, add 'IBHC12', and insert the sum to be paid. NB: payment will be in £ sterling, and you are responsible for bank charges.

Bank Transfer to Barclays Bank
account name: Partnership (UK) Ltd.
sort code: 20-03-79
account no.: 80118028
payment reference: IBHC12

(if booking from outside the UK, ask us for the necessary SWIFT and IBAN codes)