

Preparing Men to Serve



The urgent need of every age

There is no need so great for our aching and confused public than that of the church of Christ.

Our nation needs the church, and more than that, our nation needs strong, faithful, healthy churches.

The Lord has given to His church the urgent task of proclaiming to the peoples and nations of this age the triumph of creation's King.

The groaning of the created order, which we witness in the longing for social bliss and peace in our world, is coming to its end through the risen and exalted Christ.

God is restoring all things to Himself and He has appointed His Anointed One to bring to fulfilment the perfection of creation and the world for which it longs, that is, a blessed and perfected new heavens and earth.

Yet, at the heart of the faithful witness of the church is the calling and work of men appointed by Christ to serve as its under-shepherds.

As the world needs the church so does the church need under-shepherds equipped to faithfully declare that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

The vitality and health of local churches in our age is dependent upon the work of Christ who raises, fits, and calls His servants to labour for the call of the gospel and the discipleship of His people.

Such was the pressing demand at the heart of Paul's exhortation to Titus, namely the appointment of elders who have been gifted by the Spirit in their character and faithful confession.

This becomes the vital need for these Cretan churches. What Crete needed were local churches regularly exposed to sound doctrine (Titus 2:1) by godly men who, having witnessed the appearing of the grace of God, now serve as witnesses to the same salvation.

As it was for Crete, so it is in our age. We need strong and faithful men declaring the whole counsel of God to His people, and the by product, under the Lord's providence, strong and faithful Churches obeying the Lord's commands, being the public witness to the triumphant Christ, the Desire of the nations.



International Reformed Baptist Seminary, UK exists to serve local churches in the UK and beyond by resourcing, equipping, and training Christ's appointed servants called by the church to this demanding yet most worthy undertaking.

We are grateful to the Lord for the support and prayers of our partners and partner-churches. In His providence, we remain greatly encouraged by the blessing of our labours as a seminary.

As you read the various updates and news from the seminary, please pray for us and for the pulpits across our nation. Pray that the Lord would bless IRBS UK in the cause of pastoral-theological training for the good of the church and the hope of the nations.

Yours in the risen Christ,
Enoch Adekoya
Director, IRBS UK

Will your church consider partnering with us?

At the heart of the seminary's work is our commitment to rigorous, comprehensive, yet affordable seminary training.

Through our Church Partnership Programme, UK churches who support the seminary receive various benefits, including reduced tuition fees for student-members of partner churches, free access to a variety of IRBS UK video classes, free class Listening/Auditing privileges (typically £150 for a full week of class) and much more!

Are you prayerfully training a man for the ministry?
Please consider joining us through the Church Partnership Scheme.

Our Seminary degree programmes

• Master of Arts

A two-to-three-year degree programme completed through the hybrid learning format, either in-person or online. Our MA programme aims toward proficiency in confessional theology through a range of exegetical, systematic, historical and language courses.

• Master of Divinity

A three-to-four-year course designed to prepare pastors and pastors-in-training. This programme can be completed full-time or part-time and through our hybrid learning format, in-person or online. In addition to the biblical languages, students undertake a range of historical, homiletical and theological courses taught by experienced pastor-scholars who serve among our seminary faculty.

• Certificate of Reformed Baptist Studies

The CORBS programme is a fourteen-to-fifteen-hour programme designed as a supplement to previous theological/ministerial training.

The Certificate is tailored to develop a foundational understanding of confessional Reformed Baptist theology. Students will undertake courses such as Covenant Theology, Foundations of Theology, Theology of Ministry, and preaching the Psalms to a Christian Congregation.



• Bachelor of Divinity

A three-year course with a minimum of thirty hours of required in-person or online classes. Our BDiv course provides the best foundation for men entering the ministry who have yet to pursue a formal degree programme.

• Listener/Auditing pass

IRBS UK welcomes men and women to attend our classes in-person with no formal commitment to degree-level study.

Listeners visit the courses alongside students at cost (£150 for the full week; no cost to members of partner-churches).

For more information on our degree offerings, please contact: enochadekoya@irbs.uk or visit www.irbs.uk.

2025 past and forthcoming in-person courses

This year of classes commenced with a series of lectures on Baptist Church History taught by Dr. Robert Strivens.

Dr. Strivens' course discussed the history and theology of Baptists from inception in the Reformation eras to the continued reception in the twentieth century.

Students and Listeners studied the English Particular Baptists and General Baptists, drawing out important themes, such as Baptist origins and identity, Baptist theological distinctives, and other emergent themes from our rich theology and history. Dr. Strivens lectures in Church History.



Following Dr. Strivens' class, IRBS UK welcomed Dr. Joshua Henson, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Languages and pastor of Grace Covenant Church. Dr. Henson taught a class on the Old Testament Prophets.

Students and Listeners were treated to an exegetical and biblical-theological study of the writing Prophets, from Isaiah to Malachi. Among pertinent themes, particular attention was paid to topics such as the office and role of the prophet, forms of prophetic speech, and the biblical-theological loci of the prophetic books.

We are eagerly looking forward to our forthcoming 2025 classes:

- Dr. **J. Ryan Davidson** will teach a class on **Theological Pastoring**, from the **7th-11th** July 2025, 9am-5pm.
- Dr. **Richard Barcellos** is teaching **Biblical Theology** from the **13th-17th** October 2025, 9am-5pm.

Our courses are held in Ramsbottom, UK, hosted by Trinity Grace Church.
Address: 9 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancashire, BLO 9AB

Class of 2025



IRBS celebrated the commencement/graduation of six students who received their degrees.

"We give thanks and praise the Lord for His wonderful works among us. On May 17 we watched as six students received their degrees and certificates. Each of these men worked hard and earned what they were granted. We will miss them, but we trust that the Lord will use them in His service."

– James M. Renihan, Seminary President

See below a testimonial written by one of our students, Benedict Allmand-Smith. Benedict is the first International student to graduate under IRBS' Master of Divinity programme.

Benedict writes of the Lord's blessing upon his studies with IRBS:

"I have been taught by excellent scholar pastors. These men are experts in their academic fields, and yet are also aware of the particulars of day-to-day pastoral ministry. This combination of academic rigour and practical wisdom has imparted a wealth of eminently useful knowledge for which I am exceedingly thankful."

Please pray for the seminary students currently undertaking their studies with us and that the Lord would raise up many more for His service and His church.

How to keep up to date

To receive regular news and updates, please subscribe to our newsletter via the seminary website:
www.irbs.uk