

**Jonathan Reid** graduated with an MA in Applied Theology in 2008. Along with his wife Hazel, they lead Wexford Bible Church in the South East of Ireland. As well as being a student, Jonathan also served on the IBI board. During his studies in IBI, he was challenged in areas of leadership, preaching and biblical interpretation. "The assignments and reflective practice encouraged me to think through my leadership and preaching style while grounding the teaching in the Irish context." He also appreciated the inter-denominational nature of IBI and comments: "As a leader of an independent evangelical church, I appreciate the network of other church leaders which IBI opens up." Jonathan believes that IBI is of strategic importance to the Irish church. He sees it as somewhere people can receive training and teaching which is being directly applied to the cultural context in which they will be ministering.



## Past students



**Florence Binions** is from Douglas in Cork and is a member of St Michael's Church of Ireland in Blackrock, Co Cork. Since graduating from IBI with a BA Degree in 2005, Florence has been involved in leading Bible studies, prayer ministry and playing the organ in her church. IBI modules such as Theology, Communication, Biblical Interpretation and Pastoral Care, along with a session of realising our gifts, have been instrumental in Florence's confidence and ability to teach and lead. Through her experience in IBI and with all God has been leading her to since, Florence has been moved out of her comfort zone with opportunities to speak at several small events and to lead quiet days in different parishes. "I think God has been very patient with me all through IBI and since I left. He has been gradually moving me out of my comfort zone. Praise God that He is not limited by my limitations!"



IBI is having a huge impact on the lives of students, past and present. It is extremely encouraging to hear of how God is working in their lives and having an impact in churches and communities across the country. These are just a few sample stories which will give an idea of how your donations and your ongoing prayer is having a very positive affect on people's lives.

"IBI is helping me to discover more about who I am and what role I play in God's unfolding story. I'm learning to interpret the Bible in different ways and see other people's views that might be different to mine. I'm learning what I am passionate about and am gaining the necessary tools to fuel that passion. Modules such as Pastoral Caring, Youth Ministry and Christology have impacted me deeply."



**Brian Hickey, Youth Leader**  
Current student

Urban Junction

Tallaght Family Church



**Linda Desmond, Pastoral Care**  
Current student

"IBI is helping me to be more equipped in active ministry in my church, through different modules—particularly Biblical Interpretation and Communication."

There are many churches across the country where IBI has had, and is having, an impact. One such church is Dun Laoghaire Evangelical Church in Dublin.

“Engagement with IBI has had a hugely beneficial effect on my life and ministry. Independent non-denominational churches in Ireland do not have seminaries where prospective pastors can study and learn their craft and so IBI filled that gap for me. My studies enabled me to engage with Scripture in a logical and systematic way that helps me to relate it to 21st century life in Ireland. Learning how to find good resources and use them was critical to this process.”



Church Leader

Dogie McCormack

Keilah Joyce

Childrens Worker  
Current student



“IBI’s focus on ‘Head, Heart and Hands’ means that we’re encouraged to apply everything we learn. The things I learn should be used to encourage the children I work with. I find this focus on application challenges me to see what I learn as something that should be passed on to others and that’s so helpful for ministry.”

“IBI was instrumental in helping me not only understand my faith better, but also how to put it into practice. Since my time at IBI, I have grown in confidence and understanding, been a part of the youth programme, teaching on a Sunday morning, and becoming an elder at my church.”

Elder



Darren Mooney

Robbie and Ruth Burns

Tutors at IBI



“Material in the MA modules has challenged and stretched my thinking in preparation for speaking and considering how the church can reach out and impact the local community.” Ruth  
“Working with course material in developing online modules and teaching has been valuable in helping me lead small group discussions and answering questions. It has also helped me to have a better vision of God’s work in multi-cultural contexts.” Robbie

“My time at IBI was really beneficial for my work and personal life. I was able to take much of what I learned and apply it to my ministry. It also fed me spiritually and my time in IBI was really refreshing. There was also a great sense of friendship and connection in the college.”

Youth Pastor

Ross Campbell



Cliff and Marie Kirker

Elder

Marie says she “enjoyed being with others, appreciating a bit more the eternal panorama of the story of God. (It’s not all about us!)”.  
“Studying in IBI has shown me how to study the Bible in a fresh and relevant way, something that has stayed with me to this day.” Cliff

