



Rev. John Michael Brentnall
1938–2021

Education and Professional Career

John Brentnall was born on 18th June 1938. He was educated at Swanwick Hall Grammar School in Derbyshire (1949–1956), then at Durham University, where he graduated with Honours in Music in 1959.

Converted to Christ through reading the Puritan John Owen (1616–83) and the Scottish Covenanter William Guthrie (1620–65), he then trained as a teacher at London University. Worshipping at Westminster Chapel, he sat under the powerful ministry of Dr David Martyn Lloyd-Jones. Following a period as Head of Music at Brigg High School in Lincolnshire (1961–64) and at Ecclesbourne School, Duffield, in Derbyshire (1964–70), he became Principal Teacher of Music at Aberdeen High School (1970–73).

Having received a call and training for the Christian Ministry (1973–76), he became minister of the Dumbarton congregation of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland (1976–82), before serving as a Wycliffe Preacher with the Protestant Truth Society (1982–86). During this period, he served on the Scottish State-Church Committee for Education, and lectured and preached throughout England. He was also an Examiner in Scripture for the Cambridge University Examination board at GCSE level. Thereafter, he was tutor and pastoral counsellor to a government managing agency for the unemployed (1986–1989).

In 1989, Mr Brentnall served as Pastor of Castlefields Chapel, Derby, later relocating with some members to Derwent Free Church, Chaddesden. Between 1997 and 2014 he worked at home as Secretary of the Sovereign Grace Union and Editor of its magazine, *Peace and Truth*. In 1998, he became Head of Christology and Chancellor of Cranmer College, which conferred on him an honorary doctorate in Theology (1999). In this role, he developed a number of academic courses for students on several aspects of Reformed Theology. Some of these courses were further developed and adapted for teaching lay preachers in local churches and for individual instruction, and are here republished by kind permission of Rev. Brentnall and his family.



Dr Brentnall published over twenty books and several hundred articles and booklets on Christian subjects, all from a theologically Reformed viewpoint. Perhaps the most notable of these are on William Bagshawe, John Hieron, Samuel Rutherford, John Duncan, John Calvin, Martin Luther, Malcolm MacSween and Andrew Gray.

In 1960, John married Elsa and they were together until his death on 30th Nov 2021, aged 83. They had two children, Alison and Jonathan, and four grandchildren.

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