

JONES, WILLIAM (1806 - 1873), cleric and man of letters

Name: William Jones
Date of birth: 1806
Date of death: 1873
Gender: Male
Occupation: cleric and man of letters
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born, it is said, at Newborough (Anglesey). He received baptism at Liverpool, 2 September 1821, at the hands of **Daniel Jones** (1788 - 1862), and soon began to preach; from 1823 till 1827 he was in the Baptist college at Bradford, and afterwards for a short time at Glasgow University. He was ordained minister at Llangefni, Christmas 1828, but removed to Holywell in 1830. There, he set on foot a scheme for a Baptist Academy in North Wales, but was ill-supported by his fellow-Baptists - later on, influential Baptists like **R. D. Roberts** of Llwynhendy averred that this lukewarmness had been a serious mistake. However, Jones kept on writing in defence of his scheme and travelling to collect money for it. On such a journey, he visited Cardigan, where the minister of Bethania church, **John Herring** had just died, and at the end of 1832 was called to the pastorate by a majority of its members. But the minority, alleging among other things that Jones upheld 'open communion,' revolted, and were expelled - in the upshot, the Association disowned the church and excommunicated the pastor (1833). Jones now became an Anglican, and spent eighteen months at S. David's College, Lampeter; he was ordained by the bishop of Rochester in 1835 and priested at S. Davids in 1836. He was curate at Llandovery (1835-7) and at Llanbeulan in Anglesey (1837-42), and vicar of Nevin with Carngiwch (1842-62). At Nevin, he did not get on well - his report to the 1846-7 Commissioners on Education (see the Commission's *Report*, iii, 42) drastically condemned his parishioners' morals. In October 1862 he was made rector of Llanenddwyn with Llanddwywe (i.e. Dyffryn Ardudwy, Meirionnydd) - and soon afterwards proclaimed that 'the Nevin folk were angels in comparison with those of Llanddwywe.' He died 3 June 1873, and was buried at Llanddwywe. Jones was an able man, but was commonly thought unwise. He published: *Portrait of the True Philosopher*, 1831; *The Character of the Welsh as a Nation, in the Present Age*, 1841 (with a Welsh version); *The Causes of Adversity and Prosperity*, 1842; *The Present State of France*, 1848; *Patriotism of the Present Age*, 1849; *Traethawd ar Swyddogaeth Barn a Darfelydd mewn Cyfansoddiadau Rhyddieithol a Barddonol* (including a *prydeist* on the Resurrection) 1853; *Pregethau* 1862.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Hanes y Bedyddwyr yn Nghymru, iv, 57-8

David Jones, *Hanes y Bedyddwyr yn Neheubarth Cymru* (1839), 95

E. Cefni Jones, *Hanes Coleg y Bedyddwyr yng Ngogledd Cymru, 1862â€”1927* (1928), 28-31

Bangor Manuscript at University College North Wales Library, Bangor 6453 in U.C.N.W. library

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