

ELLIS, DAVID (1736 - 1795), cleric, poet, translator, and transcriber of manuscripts

Name: David Ellis

Date of birth: 1736

Date of death: 1795

Parent: Elizabeth David

Parent: Ellis David

Gender: Male

Occupation: cleric, poet, translator, and transcriber of manuscripts

Area of activity: History and Culture; Literature and Writing; Poetry; Religion; Scholarship and Languages

Author: David Jenkins

Born 31 August 1736, son of Ellis and Elizabeth David, Hafod-y-meirch, Dolgelley. He received his early education at Ystrad Meurig, and matriculated 14 November 1763. He proceeded to Jesus College, Oxford, 12 March 1764, but for some unknown reason he left on 30 June in that same year. He was ordained deacon at Bangor on 22 July 1764, and priest a year later. Ellis held curacies at Llanberis, Caernarfonshire, Llangeinwen, Anglesey, Derwen, Denbighshire, and Amlwch, Anglesey, before he was appointed vicar of Llanberis, 9 October 1788. He became vicar of Criccieth on 19 July 1789, and there he remained until his death. He was buried at Criccieth, 11 May 1795.

A versatile poet, Ellis wrote elegies on **Evan Evans** (Ieuan Brydydd Hir) and on his old schoolmaster **Edward Richard**. Probably his greatest service to his contemporaries was to translate the following English works into Welsh: *The knowledge and practice of Christianity* by Thomas Wilson (London, 1774); *A short manual of prayers for common occasions*, by James Merrick (London, 1774 and 1805); and *The History of the Holy Jesus*, by William Smith (Trefriw, 1776). He translated into Welsh a poem by **Evan Evans** (Ieuan Brydydd Hir), entitled *The Penitent Shepherd: a sacred poem*, which was published in *Blodau Dyfed*, an anthology compiled by **J. Howell** (Carmarthen, 1824) [p. 55]. He also copied a large number of Welsh manuscripts which today are included among such well-known collections as **Peniarth**, **Cwrtmawr**, and N.L.W., in the National Library of Wales; Gwyneddon in the library of the U.C.N.W., Bangor, and Cardiff City Free Library. He also made a transcript of *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, by **Henry Rowlands** (1655 - 1723), which he presented to the library of his old school at Ystrad Meurig.

Author

Dr David Jenkins, (1912 - 2002)

Sources

Diocese of Bangor records in N.L.W.

Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: the members of the University of Oxford*

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [David Ellis](#)

Additional Links

VIAF: [316745454](#)

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