

## EVANS, JOHN (c. 1680 - 1730), Presbyterian minister and theologian

**Name:** John Evans  
**Date of birth:** c. 1680  
**Date of death:** 1730  
**Parent:** Katherine Powell (née Gerard)  
**Parent:** John Evans  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Presbyterian minister and theologian  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** Arthur Herbert Dodd

The son of [John Evans](#) (1628 - 1700) by Katherine, widow of [Vavasor Powell](#) and daughter of colonel Gilbert Gerard, governor of Chester castle for Charles I. He was born at Wrexham, educated at Dissenting academies at Newington Green (c. 1694) and Rathmell, Yorkshire, and studied the early Fathers under [James Owen](#) of Oswestry. He became chaplain to Mrs. Rowland Hunt of Boreatton, Salop, and shortly before his father's death went to assist him in the oversight of the ' Old Meeting ' (Independent and Baptist) at Wrexham. The congregation invited him to succeed his father, but he made it a condition that the ' New Meeting ' (Presbyterian) should be reunited to the Old, and when that proved impossible he seems to have accepted a call from the latter. He was ordained at Wrexham on 18 August 1702, among those officiating being [Matthew Henry](#) of Chester, [James Owen](#) of Oswestry, and Francis Tallents of Shrewsbury. In 1704 he became assistant pastor to [Daniel Williams](#) at Hand Alley, London, succeeding [Williams](#) in the pastorate on the latter's death in 1716. He took a leading part (on the orthodox side) in the Arian controversy of 1719, but always maintained a tolerant attitude in matters of doctrine. He was a trustee of the regium donum (1723) and headed the Nonconformist deputation to congratulate George II on his accession (1727). He wrote many theological works (listed in *D.N.B.*), and received the degree of D.D. from Edinburgh University in November 1728, but not from Aberdeen (as in *D.N.B.*) nor from Glasgow (as in Palmer). He also collected (but did not live to use) materials for a history of Puritanism (some of which are preserved in Dr. Williams's library), and statistics of Nonconformity from 1717 to 1729. He had lost heavily in the bursting of the South Sea Bubble (1720), and died 'but in mean circumstances' on 23 May 1730; but he left behind him some 10,000 volumes, also lodged in Dr. Williams's library, where his portrait hangs. He was buried in Dr. Williams's vault in Bunhill Fields. His wife was the daughter of an ejected minister of 1662.

### Author

**Emeritus Professor Arthur Herbert Dodd**, (1891 - 1975)

### Sources

Edmund Calamy, *An historical account of my own life with some reflections on the times I have lived in (1671-1731)* (London 1830)

A. N. Palmer, *A history of the older nonconformity of Wrexham and its neighbourhood being the third part of 'A history of the town and parish of Wrexham'*(1888)

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, xviii, 65-6

NLW Archives: [NLW MS 11097A](#)

*Rhual Manuscript* 110

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Evans](#)

### Additional Links

VIAF: [16173796](#)

Wikidata: [Q6232005](#)

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