

ISAAC, DAVID LLOYD (1818 - 1876), cleric and author

Name: David Lloyd Isaac
Date of birth: 1818
Date of death: 1876
Gender: Male
Occupation: cleric and author
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born at Llanwenog, Cardiganshire, 10 February 1818. He was a member of Aberduar Baptist church (Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire) (D. Jones, *Hanes Bed. Deheubarth*, 336), and went to Abergavenny Baptist Academy in 1835 (Rufus Williams, *Hanes Athrofydd y Bedyddwyr*, 35), and thence to the newly-opened Baptist College at Pontypool (*Hanes Athrofydd y Bedyddwyr*, 65) - his name is the first on the list of students. In 1838 he became pastor at Neath, and founded new churches at Aberdylais, Glyn Neath, and Pontardawe; he also initiated a Cymreigyddion Society at Neath. But internal disputes arose, and Isaac was also suspected of unorthodoxy (D. R. Phillips, *Hist. of the Vale of Neath*, 155), so in 1841 he moved to Trosnant church in Pontypool. His career there was stormy (Bradney, *Monmouthshire*, I, ii, 455; *Y Bedyddiwr*, January 1854; *Yr Haul*, 1854, 64) so in 1853 he became an Anglican, and went to S. David's College, Lampeter. He was ordained deacon 23 September 1855 at Llandaff (*Haul*, 1855, 363) and priested 21 September 1856 (*Haul*, 1856, 323), and licensed to the curacy of Llangattock-juxta-Neath. In 1858, he was given the perpetual curacy of Llangathen, Carmarthenshire; a note in the parish register (*Transactions of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Field Club*, vii, 36) shows that he was diligent there, building a school and a vicarage, rebuilding a ruined chapel, restoring the church, and increasing the number of communicants. He was preferred in 1871 (*Haul*, 1871, 278) to the vicariate of Llangamarch, Brecknock, and died there 31 January 1876. Throughout his career, Isaac was an industrious (though unsystematic and uncritical) writer on history, antiquities, and philology. When a Baptist, he wrote much in *Seren Gomer*; as an Anglican, even in his Lampeter days, he was a voluminous contributor to *Yr Haul* - one may specify his articles on antiquities (*Haul*, 1854-5) and on the translators of the Bible (ibid., 1856), and the miscellany '*Llyfrgell Llwyd o Langathen*' (ibid., 1858-9); he also engaged in controversy with Dissent. He published in 1859 a volume, *Siluriana*, on the history of Monmouthshire and Glamorgan, a rather unskilful piece of quarrying in the manuscripts of William Davies of Cringell (on this matter, see D. R. Phillips in *Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society*, ii, 29-33); and in 1860 an eisteddfodic prize-essay *Hanes Llanbedr a'r Gymmydogaeth*; according to Bradney, he also published a book on Whitland Abbey.

Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

Sources

Sources indicated

the date and place of birth, and the date of death, are taken from D. Rhys Phillips, *Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society*, loc. cit

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