



JONES, THOMAS (1756 - 1820), Calvinistic Methodist minister and author

Name: Thomas Jones
Date of birth: 1756
Date of death: 1820
Spouse: Mary Jones (née Lloyd)
Spouse: A. Jones (née Maysmor)
Spouse: Elizabeth Jones (née Jones)
Gender: Male
Occupation: Calvinistic Methodist minister and author
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion
Author: Idwal Jones

Born at Penucha, Caerwys, Flintshire, freehold of his father Edward, and received a classical education at Caerwys and Holywell. Refusing to prepare for holy orders, he did not go on to a university, but joined the Methodists in 1772, and in 1783 began to preach. He had the supervision of societies in Mold (1795-1804), Ruthin (1804-1806), and Denbigh (1809-1820). He married (1) 1795, Elizabeth Jones of Mold, a devout and wealthy woman who died in 1797 leaving him most of her property; (2) 1804, A. Maysmor of Llanellidan; (3) 1806, Mary Lloyd of Llanrwst. In 1784 he met **Thomas Charles** of Bala, and their close friendship brought him into touch with the religious world outside Wales and with such movements as the Bible Society, the London Missionary Society, and the circulating schools. He influenced **Charles's** Welsh writing, and his attitude towards the ordination of C.M. exhorters. They were joint editors of the *Trysorfa Ysprydol*, 1799-1801, drew up the *Rules and Design of the ... Welsh Methodists*, 1801, and corresponded regularly. He wrote **Charles's** memoir, 1814.

One of the ablest and besteducated leaders of the connexion in North Wales, he was among the first to be ordained in 1811. He was a scholar, a theologian, and a man of historical interests; his Welsh was vigorous, concise, and correct. His autobiography is of great interest, tracing his spiritual pilgrimage and showing the strength and charm of his personality. His literary output was large, and included a translation of Gurnal's *Christian in Complete Armour*, 1796-1819; a martyrology in Welsh, 1813; and an *English and Welsh Dictionary*, 1800. He wrote poetry well in the strict metres, and delighted in the work of **Dafydd ap Gwilym**, as is shown by his *cywydd* to the thrush, 1793. Many of his hymns are still sung. He took a leading part in the theological controversies of the period and tried, by advocating in books and pamphlets a moderate Calvinism, to steer his denomination between the extremes of Arminianism and High Calvinism. Most of his work was printed in a press which he set up in his house at Ruthin in 1804, took with him to Denbigh, and sold to his printer, **Thomas Gee (senior)**, in 1813. He died at Denbigh, 16 June 1820.

Author

Professor Idwal Jones, (1889 - 1965)

Sources

Thomas Jones, John Humphreys and John Roberts (eds.), *Cofiant, neu Hanes bywyd a marwolaeth y Parch. Thomas Jones, Gweinidog yr Efengyl, yn ddiweddar o dref Ddinbych* (Dinbych 1820)

Owen Thomas, *Cofiant y Parchedig John Jones, Talsarn: mewn cysylltiad a hanes duwinyddiaeth a phregethu Cymru* (Wrexham 1874), chapter xi

Jonathan Jones, *Cofiant y Parch. Thomas Jones o Ddinbych, yn cynnwys ei gyssylltiad a duwinyddiaeth a llenyddiaeth ei oes, a hanes a symudiadau y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd, ac a'r ordeiniad cyntaf a fu ar eu gweinidogion yn y flwyddyn 1811, gyda deg ar hugain o ddarluniau* (Dinbych 1897)

D. E. Jenkins, *Life of Thomas Charles* (Denbigh 1908)

Y Llenor: cylchgrawn chwarterol dan nawdd cymdeithasau Cymraeg y colegau cenedlaethol, October 1933

Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society, v, 3

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd, xxix, 4

Further Reading

J. Morgan Jones a W. Morgan, *Y Tadau Methodistiaidd (1895-1897)*, ii, 374-409

Wikipedia Article: [Thomas Jones](#)

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Published date: 1959

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APA Citation



Jones, I., (1959). JONES, THOMAS (1756 - 1820), Calvinistic Methodist minister and author. *Dictionary of Welsh Biography*. Retrieved 13 Nov 2024, from <https://biography.wales/article/s-JONE-THM-1756>

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