

## THOMAS, LEWIS JOHN (1883 - 1970), missionary in India with the London Missionary Society

**Name:** Lewis John Thomas  
**Date of birth:** 1883  
**Date of death:** 1970  
**Spouse:** Hannah E. Thomas (née Mathews)  
**Child:** Iorwerth Thomas  
**Parent:** Mary Thomas (née Williams)  
**Parent:** Cefni Thomas  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** missionary in India with the London Missionary Society  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** Huw Ethall

Born 2 February 1883 at Llangefni, Anglesey, son of Cefni and Mary (née Williams) Thomas. The family moved to Rhiwbryfdir, Blaenau Ffestiniog, when he was five. After a period as a pupil-teacher and working on the railway, he moved to Corwen and then Birkenhead. There he came under the influence of the 1904-05 religious revival and began preaching; he had wished to become a missionary since he was a young man.

After attending Paton College, Nottingham, he was ordained at Jerusalem, Blaenau Ffestiniog, 12 October 1911. He sailed for India 4 November 1911 and worked hard as a superintendent of a large number of churches in the provinces where Telugu was spoken. He married Hannah E. Mathews in Madras; they lived at Cuddapah, Kamalapuram, Goety and Jammalamadugu, and had a son and daughter. From 1927 to 1938 he was responsible for a seminary to instruct native evangelists, and from 1939 to 1949 he was secretary/treasurer of the Missionary Society. As an uncompromising Independent, he opposed the United Church, although he gave of his best in all co-operative activities.

He retired from missionary work in 1949, but accepted the care of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Bangalore, where their son Iorwerth was a missionary and head of a boys' grammar school. He lost his sight in 1954. His wife died 13 May 1964 and he died 17 April 1970 in Bangalore where they both were buried.

### Author

Reverend Huw Ethall

### Sources

Personal research

### Additional Links

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