

EVANS, JOHN (died 1779), Evangelical cleric, translator, and commentator

Name: John Evans
Date of death: 1779
Gender: Male
Occupation: Evangelical cleric, translator, and commentator
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Religion; Scholarship and Languages
Author: Daniel Williams

Born at Meini Gwynion, Llanbadarn Odwyn (now Llan-geitho), Cardiganshire. He is said to have been educated at Oxford, and to have graduated [but he cannot be identified in Foster's *Alumni*, and there has been considerable confusion between him and [John Evans](#), 1702 - 1782]. His first curacy was at Llanarth, Cardiganshire; then he became curate at Plymouth, to be known henceforth as 'the parson of Portsmouth ' (not 'the parson of Plymouth ' as he was often styled in Cardiganshire in his own day). His service to Wales was mainly as a translator of devotional works into Welsh. He is credited with the translation of *Meditations on the Sacraments*, 1735, by Jabez Earle, minister of Long Acre, London; the 3rd edition of I. Watts, *Catechism y Gymanfa neu y Catechism Byrraf*, 1741; and *Y Deddfau Cristionogol sef Didwyll Air Duw*, 1773 (a translation of Gastrel's *Christian Institutes*). As a commentator he was earlier in the field than [Peter Williams](#), his chief work being *Cyssondeb y Pedair Efyngyl; Gyd ag Agoriad Byrr a Nodau Athrawus* (Bristol, 1765) - the first regular commentary to appear in Welsh. He died in 1779 at Portsmouth.

Author

Reverend Daniel Williams, (1878 - 1968)

Sources

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

D. J. Saer, *The story of Cardiganshire adopted by the Cardiganshire Education Committee* (1912)

Benjamin Williams (Gwynionydd), *Enwogion Ceredigion* (1869)

Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [John Evans](#)

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