

## JENKINS, JOSEPH (1743 - 1819), Baptist minister

**Name:** Joseph Jenkins  
**Date of birth:** 1743  
**Date of death:** 1819  
**Parent:** Evan Jenkins  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Baptist minister  
**Area of activity:** Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

son of the Evan Jenkins (1712 - 1723 March 1752) who was pastor of Wrexham ' Old Meeting ' for some months in 1737 and again (after a period at Exeter) from 1740 till 1752, and grandson of **John Jenkins** (1656? - 1733), pastor of Rhydwylym. Joseph was only 9 when his father died, but **Thomas Llewellyn** saw to his education in London; later, he went to Aberdeen (M.A. 1765, D.D. 1790). He was baptized in London in 1766; **Benjamin Francis** preached on the occasion. In 1769 he opened a school at Wrexham, also undertaking the pastorate of an Independent congregation in Crook's Lane, Chester - he had begun to preach while in Scotland. A sermon of his on the occasion of a great explosion at Chester was published (1772) in a Welsh version by **Benjamin Evans** (1740 - 1821), at that time minister at Llanuwchllyn. In 1773 (8 September) he was ordained pastor of his father's former church, the Old Meeting, at Wrexham; the church had then twenty-seven communicants, and during his pastorate shrank to ten - he does not seem to have been a powerful preacher, though he was a careful administrator. It was a mixed congregation, of Independents and open-communion Baptists, and Jenkins made a practice of 'dedicating' infants, even when their parents were Baptists. However, in 1776 it was decided that whenever Jenkins's pastorate should expire the church would become officially Baptist - the trust-deed was redrafted accordingly, in 1778. Jenkins resigned in 1791, but continued to give generous financial support to the Old Meeting in subsequent years. On the death in 1791 of **Caleb Evans**, he was put in charge of Bristol Baptist Academy, but owing to disagreements he removed in 1793 to be pastor of Blandford Street church in London; thence he went to Walworth, where he died 21 February 1819; he was buried in Bunhill Fields. A firm Calvinist, he published a number of English sermons and essays - list in Price's book mentioned below, pp. 203-5.

### Author

**Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins**, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

*Hanes y Bedyddwyr yn Nghymru*, iii, 200-2, 210, 223-5

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)

G. V. Price, *The Old Meeting at Wrexham*

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