

## JONES, WILLIAM (1806 - 1873), cleric and man of letters

**Name:** William Jones  
**Date of birth:** 1806  
**Date of death:** 1873  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** cleric and man of letters  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born, it is said, at Newborough (Anglesey). He received baptism at Liverpool, 2 September 1821, at the hands of [Daniel Jones](#) (1788 - 1862), and soon began to preach; from 1823 till 1827 he was in the Baptist college at Bradford, and afterwards for a short time at Glasgow University. He was ordained minister at Llangefni, Christmas 1828, but removed to Holywell in 1830. There, he set on foot a scheme for a Baptist Academy in North Wales, but was ill-supported by his fellow-Baptists - later on, influential Baptists like [R. D. Roberts](#) of Llwynhendy averred that this lukewarmness had been a serious mistake. However, Jones kept on writing in defence of his scheme and travelling to collect money for it. On such a journey, he visited Cardigan, where the minister of Bethania church, [John Herring](#) had just died, and at the end of 1832 was called to the pastorate by a majority of its members. But the minority, alleging among other things that Jones upheld 'open communion,' revolted, and were expelled - in the upshot, the Association disowned the church and excommunicated the pastor (1833). Jones now became an Anglican, and spent eighteen months at S. David's College, Lampeter; he was ordained by the bishop of Rochester in 1835 and priested at S. Davids in 1836. He was curate at Llandovery (1835-7) and at Llanbeulan in Anglesey (1837-42), and vicar of Nevin with Carngiwch (1842-62). At Nevin, he did not get on well - his report to the 1846-7 Commissioners on Education (see the Commission's *Report*, iii, 42) drastically condemned his parishioners' morals. In October 1862 he was made rector of Llanenddwyn with Llanddwywe (i.e. Dyffryn Ardudwy, Meirionnydd) - and soon afterwards proclaimed that 'the Nevin folk were angels in comparison with those of Llanddwywe.' He died 3 June 1873, and was buried at Llanddwywe. Jones was an able man, but was commonly thought unwise. He published: *Portrait of the True Philosopher*, 1831; *The Character of the Welsh as a Nation, in the Present Age*, 1841 (with a Welsh version); *The Causes of Adversity and Prosperity*, 1842; *The Present State of France*, 1848; *Patriotism of the Present Age*, 1849; *Traethawd ar Swyddogaeth Barn a Darfelydd mewn Cyfansoddiadau Rhyddieithol a Barddonol* (including a *prydddest* on the Resurrection) 1853; *Pregethau* 1862.

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

*Hanes y Bedyddwyr yn Nghymru*, iv, 57-8

D. Jones, *Hanes y Bedyddwyr yn Neheubarth Cymru* (1839), 95

E. Cefni Jones, *Hanes Coleg y Bedyddwyr yng Ngogledd Cymru, 1862-1927* (1928), 28-31

*Bangor Manuscript at University College North Wales Library, Bangor* 6453 in U.C.N.W. library

### Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20734663](#)

**Published date:** 1959

**Article Copyright:** <http://rightsstatements.org/page/InC/1.0/> 

The Dictionary of Welsh Biography is provided by The National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. It is free to use and does not receive grant support. A donation would help us maintain and improve the site so that we can continue to acknowledge Welsh men and women who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Find out more on our [sponsorship page](#).

