

## MAURICE, MATHIAS (1684 - 1738), Independent minister and writer

**Name:** Mathias Maurice  
**Date of birth:** 1684  
**Date of death:** 1738  
**Spouse:** Elizabeth Maurice  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Independent minister and writer  
**Area of activity:** Literature and Writing; Religion  
**Authors:** Robert Thomas Jenkins, George Thomas Streater

The son of a tailor at Llanddewi-Velfrey, Pembrokeshire, and himself a tailor, according to the unkindly taunt of [Jeremy Owen](#). He became a member of Henllan Amgoed congregation, then went to [William Evans](#) (died 1718), at Carmarthen, to prepare himself for the ministry; he would seem to have been there at the time of the first schisms (1707-9) at Henllan. In the second schism (1711) at Henllan, Maurice joined [Henry Palmer](#) and others in their migration to Rhyd-y-ceisiaid.

Early in 1713 he became minister at Olney (Buckinghamshire), but in November 1714 was called to Rothwell (Northants) to succeed [Richard Davis](#) - a natural choice, when we remember the High Calvinism and the championship of absolute congregational self-government which he had already shown at Henllan.

In 1726 he wrote a short pamphlet, *Byr a chywir Hanes Eglwys Rhydyceished yn eu Nheulltuad o Henllan, trwy y Blynyddoedd 1707, 1708, 1709*, which he printed in 1727 as an appendix to his book *Y Wir Eglwys* (it was reprinted by [D. M. Lewis](#) in the 1925 number of *Y Cofiadur*, 41-9); [Jeremy Owen](#)'s pamphlet, *Golwg ar y Beiau*, etc., 1732, was a reply to it. He published a number of English books, including *Monuments of Mercy* (1729), *A modern question affirmed and approved* (1739). Maurice's works are listed in *Llyfryddiaeth y Cymry*, under 1711, 1720, 1727, 1733, 1734, 1759.

The most popular of his original writings was *Social Religion Exemplify'd*, 1759, which had gone through seven editions by 1860. An abridgement of it, by [Dr. Edward Williams](#) (1750 - 1813), was translated into Welsh in 1797 by [Benjamin Evans](#) of Dre-wen, and the whole work by [Evan Evans](#) (1804 - 1886) of Nant-y-glo in 1862; both went into more than one edition.

Maurice died at Rothwell on 1 September 1738. His widow Elizabeth died 8 October 1771, 73 years old.

### Authors

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

George Thomas Streater

### Sources

*Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru*, iii, 346-7

D. M. Lewis, [Eglwysi Henllan a Rhydyceisiaid: Mathias Maurice a 'Dadl Henllan'](#), *Y Cofiadur*, 1925, 22-49

T. Richards in *A History of Carmarthenshire*, ii, 1939, 165-70

Introduction to University of Wales reprint of Jeremy Owen's *Golwg ar y Beiau y sydd yn yr hanes a brintwyd ynghylch pedair neu bum mlynedd i nawr, ym mherthynas i'r rhwygiad a wnaethbwyd yn Eglwys Henllan ... 1707, 1708, 1709* (Carmarthen 1732-3)

Norman Glass, *The Early History of the Independent Church at Rothwell, alias Rowell, in Northamptonshire* (Northampton 1871)

Minutes of the congregation in Rothwell

### Further Reading

Wikipedia Article: [Mathias Maurice](#)

### Works

Mathias Maurice, [Ymddiddan rhwng dau Gristion, cywir a ffyddlon, ynghylch ail-enedigaeth](#) (Llundain 1730)

### Additional Links

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