

POWELL, JONATHAN (1764 - 1823), Independent minister

Name: Jonathan Powell
Date of birth: 1764
Date of death: 1823
Gender: Male
Occupation: Independent minister
Area of activity: Religion
Author: Richard Griffith Owen

Born at Defynnog, Brecknock, in 1764. He began to preach at Godre-rhos, Glamorganshire, and in 1790 received a call to Rhayader, Radnorshire, where he was ordained and where his subsequent career was stormy. He appears to have been a stern disciplinarian and insisted on excommunicating some members who showed a tendency towards Sabellianism. The church, however, refused to endorse his action and he decided to leave. In 1798 he went to Anglesey to take charge of the churches of Rhos-y-meirch and Capel Mawr. At that time there were very few ministers in the island and he had a hand in founding a number of new Independent chapels, twenty-eight of which were registered as places of worship in the course of his ministry. He was a gifted and able man, a diligent student who was regarded as one of the leading men of his denomination in North Wales. He translated a number of English books into Welsh and was a hymn-writer of some distinction. In 1796 he published a small book of hymns of his own writing, *Llawenydd yn Nglyn Wylofain*, and in 1805 another, *Y Credinwyr yn Angau*, adapted from the work of Thomas Watson. He wrote an elegy upon [Richard Tibbot](#), 1798. In 1821 he retired because of ill health. He died 6 July 1823, and was buried in Rhos-y-meirch chapel burial ground.

Author

Reverend Richard Griffith Owen, (1890 - 1973)

Sources

Hanes Eglwysi Annibynnol Cymru, ii, 460

Y Dysgedydd, 1823, 257

Y Geninen, 1895, 97

Josiah Thomas Jones, *Geiriadur Bywgraffyddol o Enwogion Cymru (Aberdâr 1867-70)*, ii, 409

W. A. Griffiths, *Hanes Emynwyr Cymru* (Caernarfon 1907), 127-8

Y Caniedydd Cynulleidfaol Newydd casgliad o donau, emynau, côr-ganau, ac anthemau (London 1921), hymns 332 and 510

Additional Links

Wikidata: [Q20733693](https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q20733693)

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](#).

