

## RICHARDSON, EVAN (1759 - 1824), Calvinistic Methodist minister, and schoolmaster

**Name:** Evan Richardson  
**Date of birth:** 1759  
**Date of death:** 1824  
**Parent:** Rhisiart Morys Huw  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Calvinistic Methodist minister, and schoolmaster  
**Area of activity:** Education; Religion  
**Author:** Robert Thomas Jenkins

Born in 1759 at Bryngwyn-bach, Llanfihangel-genu'r-glyn, Cardiganshire, son of a mason named Rhisiart Morys Huw - Richardson himself is often styled 'Richards', not only in popular parlance but in [Thomas Charles](#)'s letters and in contemporary Calvinistic Methodist records. [Lewis Edwards](#) on one occasion claimed to be a 'nephew' (qu. cousin-german) of Richardson 's. He was destined for holy orders, and was at Ystradmeurig under [Edward Richard](#), but came under the spell of [Daniel Rowland](#), parted with his Anglican career (and, in consequence, with his own family), and opened a school near Llanddewi-brefi. While accompanying an itinerant exhorter to North Wales, he himself began preaching, in 1781. On the advice of [Robert Jones](#) of Rhoslan (1745 - 1829), he opened a school at Brynengan (1782), removing it afterwards to Pwllheli, thence to Llangybi in Eifonydd, and finally (1787), owing to trouble at Llangybi, to Caernarvon. This school is historic as a place of education for young Calvinistic Methodist exhorters, and the biographies of Calvinistic Methodist worthies of Richardson's time abound in references to the school - e.g. the two most famous of its alumni in its Caernarvon days were [John Elias](#) and [Sir Hugh Owen](#), Richardson gave up the school when in 1817 his health began to fail, and was succeeded by [William Lloyd](#) (1771 - 1841). Evan Richardson was also practically the founder of the Calvinistic Methodist cause at Caernarvon; the first Calvinistic Methodist sermon there had been delivered in 1786 by [David Jones](#) of Llangan, and in 1787 (while still living at Llangybi) Richardson and [John Roberts](#) (1752 - 1834) preached, by permission of [George Lewis](#), outside Pen-dref Independent chapel. Soon after that, Richardson hired an upper room at Tan-yr-allt (on the Bethel road) for holding services, and in 1793 opened the first Calvinistic Methodist chapel in the town, on ' Mount Pleasant ' - it is today (since 1826) represented by Moriah chapel. Richardson was ordained at the first Calvinistic Methodist ordination at Bala, 1811. In 1817 his health deteriorated; he was stricken by paralysis, and thenceforth had to limit his preaching activities. He died 29 March 1824, and was buried in Llanbeblig churchyard. He had been twice married.

### Author

Emeritus Professor Robert Thomas Jenkins, (1881 - 1969)

### Sources

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Wikidata: [Q20748826](#)

**Published date:** 1959

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