

ELLIS, JOHN GRIFFITH (1723/4 - 1805), Methodist exhorter

Name: John Griffith Ellis
Date of birth: 1723/4
Date of death: 1805
Gender: Male
Occupation: Methodist exhorter
Area of activity: Religion
Author: William Griffith

Christened 2 February 1723/4 at Tudweiliog, Caernarfonshire, converted in 1741 by [Howel Harris](#) at Towyn, Tudweiliog, when a servant with [William Griffith](#), Cefn Amwlch. He represented the societies of south Caernarvonshire at an Association at Lampeter, February 1748, when he was persuaded, after opposing, to continue communicating in the Established Church, and was appointed superintendent of the societies; as such, he reports to [Howel Harris](#) from Penllech, 20 April 1748, but in a P.S. it is said that he would not be at the Carmarthen Association in May following - a hint of something gone wrong. Ellis is conjectured to have been disciplined by [Harris](#) in July 1749. But he was present with [William Griffith](#) of Cefn Amwlch at Garth, Brecknock, in November 1748, and preached, so [William Jones](#), Trefollwyn (1718 - 1773?), writes, every evening. [Siarl Marc](#) was the superintendent of south Caernarvonshire societies in 1750; Ellis, therefore, may well have been the man turned out by [Harris](#) in 1749. But he was exhorting again in 1751, as [Thomas William](#) of Eglwys llan (1717 - 1765) reports to [Harris](#); he was also one of the trustees of Ty Mawr chapel, appointed in 1752; it is also reported that he preached at the first Association in Caernarvonshire, held at Clynog, before 1769. He fell away later for many years owing to drink, but overcame that weakness and is found preaching again at Caergeiliog in 1788 and 1796, and in Liverpool in 1799, and in 1800, with [Thomas Charles](#), [Thomas Jones](#), Denbigh, and [Richard Lloyd](#), Beaumaris. John Elias, in his first society-meeting in 1793 at Hendre Howel, Penmorfa, mentions John Griffith Ellis as having been present. He was a man of undoubted ability and is so described by men who knew him, such as [Robert Jones](#) of Rhos-lan. His lapse was at the time a most serious blow to Methodism in North Wales. He died in 1805 (buried at Nefyn, 19 September).

Author

Reverend William Griffith, (1916 - 1972)

Sources

Accounts of Caergeiliog Methodist Society (N.L.W.)

Biography of J. Elias, 15

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Y Drysorfa, 1837, 153

W. Hopley, *Hanes Methodistiaeth Arfon*, i, 74

Hughes, *Methodistiaeth Cymru* (1851-6), i, 103; ii, 136

Robert Jones (Rhoslan), *Drych yr Amseroedd (Llanrwst 1841)*, 71, 186

Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Hanes y Methodistiaid Calfniaidd, vi, 18; xi, 81; xxvi, 450-476; xxxiii, 31-38; xxxiv, 2-6

J. Morgan Jones and W. Morgan, *Y Tadau Methodistiaidd (1895-1897)*, i, 116

W. Griffith, *John Griffith Ellis, 1723-1805, Llyn, 'Cynghorwr pennaf Llyn': Pennod yn hanes Methodistiaeth Fore Llyn* (Caernarfon 1957)

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