

DAVID JONES Revivalist preacher 1736-1810

# Celebrating bi-centenary of the 'Angel of Llangan'

by JILL ROSSER

**D**AVID JONES was born on July 10, 1736 at Aberceiliog Farm, Llanllwni, Lampeter.

It was the desire of his parents that the eldest son would enter the church and for David to work on the farm.

All this was reversed by a terrible accident as David fell into a vat of boiling milk and it was feared he would not survive.

Eventually, he made a slow recovery and the plans were reversed and the eldest son remained on the farm and David was to go into the church.

David Jones received no university education and after attending Carmarthen Grammar School, he was ordained in 1758 at the age of 22.

He held curacies at Tydweilog (Caernarvon), Brecon and Caldicot.

From Wales, he went

to Bristol and Crudwell in Wiltshire and it was here he came to the notice of the Countess of Huntingdon. Through her influence, a parish living at Llangan was secured for him and he was able to return to his native Wales.

On April 16, 1767, at the age of 33, the name of David Jones became forever connected with Llangan.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, David Jones played a vital role in the rise of the Calvinist Methodist movement in Wales and was well known for his Methodist beliefs.

He was a founder member of the London Missionary Society and frequently travelled around Wales preaching at Methodist meetings, particularly at Trefeca, Brecon.

Little interest was shown in him at first in Llangan, but through his

persistence and unceasing pastoral work and powerful preaching up and down the country, this young vicar was soon to make a huge impact.

By 1780, Llangan was becoming the centre of evangelical Christianity in Glamorgan and bordering counties. In 1781, he married Sinah Bowen and had two sons and a daughter.

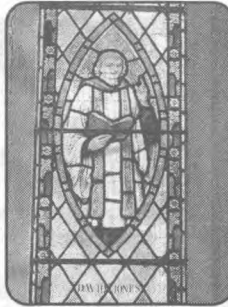
Enormous crowds were now attracted to Llangan, walking from all parts of Wales – even from as far as Anglesey. Travellers increased all the way along the route, young and old, rich and poor, some on horseback and some on foot.

Paths that had been overgrown with grass and nettles soon became bare and trodden by the multitude that crowded to Llangan to hear the talented minister.

David Jones would preach from a small window in the wall of the church to the masses outside. After the sermon, a communion service would follow and water was used instead of wine as the congregation was so large.

Many of his sermon notes are deposited in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

David Jones regarded Llangan like no other place on earth and he was affectionately known as 'The Angel of Llangan'.



In 1770, his wife died, and in 1794 he remarried and went to live at Manorowen, Pembroke.

David Jones provided funds to build Salem Chapel, Pencoed, and this was the first Methodist chapel in Glamorgan.

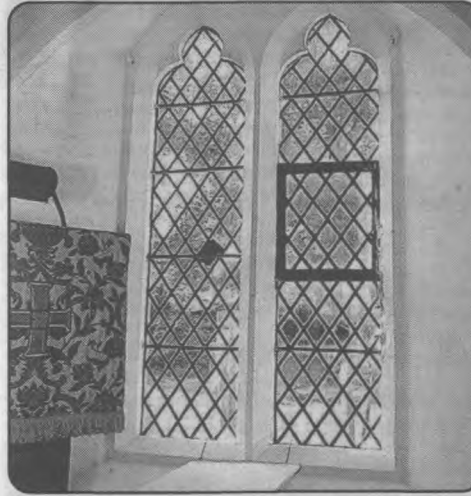
Salem became the focal point of Methodists in the area meeting on the Saturday before the great monthly communion service at Llangan. The original building was replaced by the current chapel on the same site.

David Jones died on Sunday, August 12, 1810 and he is buried at Manorowen churchyard.

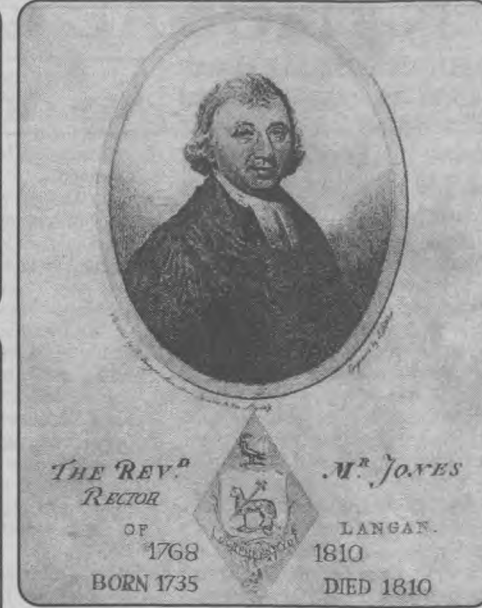
To celebrate the bi-centenary, the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan is attending St Canna's Church, on Sunday, August 8 at 6.30pm.

To continue the celebrations, Revd Brian Higham will give an illustrated talk of the life and work of David Jones on Saturday, August 14 at 2.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend the celebrations.



ABOVE: David Jones would preach from this window in Llangan Church



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