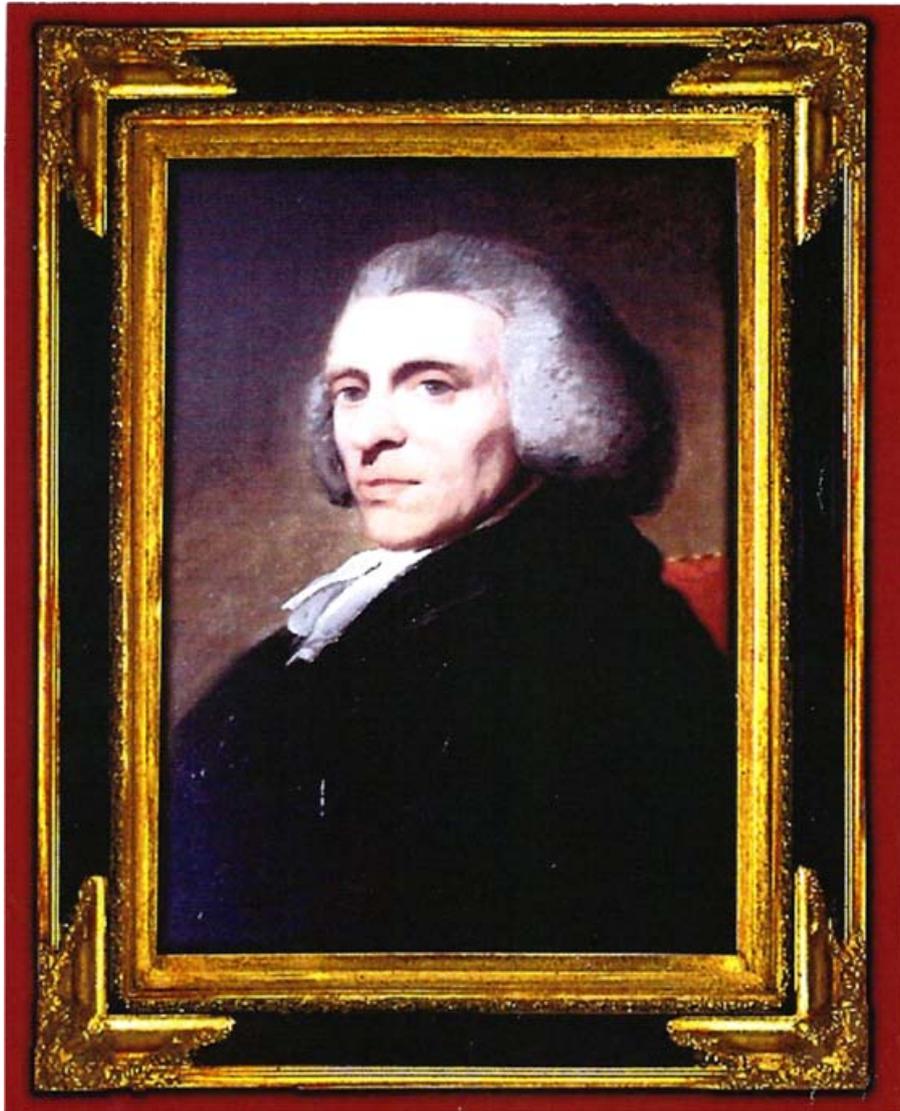


The Reverend William Jones

‘Jones of Nayland’

(1726-1800)

The Revd. William Jones  
Part of a display to mark the Bicentenary  
of Constable’s Nayland Altarpiece  
18-24 September 2010



# The Revd. William Jones

By an unknown artist

Perpetual Curate of Nayland

(1726-1800)

**Christ Blessing the Elements of Bread and Wine**  
**by**  
**John Constable R.A.**

**Bicentenary Celebration**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
St. James' Church, Nayland

Welcome	The Revd. Kit Gray
Introduction	Martin Wright, Vice Chairman of the Conservation Society
Short talk and readings about John Constable	Dr. Ronald Blythe
Organ Pieces composed by the Revd. William Jones Perpetual Curate of St. James (1776/7-1800)	James Finch (St. James Organist & Choirmaster)
Hymn: <i>The Lord Will Come</i> <i>The Nayland Tune</i> - St. Stephen by Revd. William Jones	Everyone please join in. Words overleaf
Conclusion	Dr. John Constable The artist's great great great grandson

After the Celebration, refreshments will be available and there will be a chance to view the display about the history of the Picture and Constable's family links with Nayland.

**Old English Music for Organ**  
**by**  
**William Jones of Nayland**  
**Samuel and Charles Wesley**

**William Jones of Nayland** ( 1726 – 1800 )

*“A priest, the like of whom  
If multiplied, and in their stations set,  
Would o’er the bosom of a joyful land  
Spread true religion and her genuine fruits”.*

William Wordsworth

**Introit to Anthem I –** Arise O Lord – Psalm 32 vv 8,9

**Introit to Anthem III –** Lord let me know my end  
Psalm 39 vv 5,6,8,16

**Introit to Anthem IV –** Composed for a Sunday School Festival  
*Words collected from the Psalms & the  
Proverbs of solomon*

**Samuel Wesley** ( 1766 – 1837 )

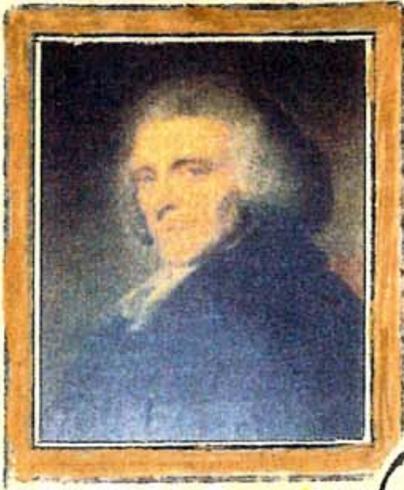
No 1 of two pieces – An Air

**Charles Wesley** ( 1757 – 1834 )

Pastorate

**William Jones of Nayland** ( 1726 – 1800 )

Hymn 29 “The lord will come and not be slow”  
Tune – St Stephen / The Nayland Tune



St. Stephen - Nayland Wm. Jones  
1726 1800

The first system of musical notation, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes.

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and bass line from the first system. It features a variety of note values and rests.

The third system of musical notation, showing further development of the piece's melody and accompaniment.

The fourth and final system of musical notation, concluding the piece with a final cadence. A small signature 'WJ' is visible in the bottom right corner of the system.

## **St. Stephen**

### *'The Nayland Tune'*

The Lord will come and not be slow,  
his footsteps cannot err;  
Before him righteousness shall go,  
his royal harbinger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower,  
shall bud and blossom then;  
and justice, from her heavenly bower,  
look down on mortal men.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,  
this wicked earth redress;  
for thou art he who shalt by right  
the nations all possess.

The nations all who thou hast made  
shall come, and all shall frame  
to bow them low before thee, Lord,  
and glorify thy name.

For great thou art, and wonders great  
by thy strong hand are done:  
thou in thy everlasting seat  
remainest God alone.

**John Milton (1608-74) Psalms 82, 85, 86  
(AM New Standard 29) (AMR 52)**

# William Jones

*Sources: Nayland Record Summer 1974 (edited by Blair Lees)  
Bridget Duckenfield's biography of the Revd. William Jones.*

The eighteenth century produced a vintage crop of eccentrics who were also men of letters. Several of these were clerics. An age that can boast Swift, Pope, Walpole and Doctor Johnson takes a lot of beating, but William Jones of Nayland fits neatly, if more modestly, into the pattern.

## **Family Background and Education**

Jones was born at Lowick, Northamptonshire, on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1726, to Morgan Jones and his wife, Sarah Lettin. He was a descendant of Colonel John Jones, the regicide and throughout his life paid penance for the crime of his ancestor, spending each anniversary of the King's execution on January 30<sup>th</sup> in fasting and prayer.

After an education which included Charterhouse and University College, Oxford, where he was awarded his B.A. in 1749, Jones was ordained deacon in the same year by the Bishop of Peterborough. Two years later he became a priest. As well as being a Theologian and Latin scholar, Jones was an accomplished musician.

## **Clerical Appointments**

In 1754 he was given the curacy of Wadenhoe in Northants, where he married Elizabeth Bridges, his vicar's daughter. During the ensuing twenty years he held two livings in Kent before returning to his native county and the vicarage of Paston.

Authorities differ as to the date of Jones' appointment to the perpetual curacy of Nayland. The Dictionary of National Biography plumps for 1777, but Grove and other reference books prefer the previous year. Jones' own biographer, the Reverend W. Stevens, who was also a close friend, give 1776 as the date, which may be said to settle the matter. It is almost certain that he lived in Fen Street in a house on the site of what is now numbers 22-26.

Parish priests have never been very well paid, and Jones was no exception to the rule. From the date of his arrival in Nayland he received £12 per annum in two half-yearly instalments. To make ends meet he was forced to take in five pupils and, pathetically, was apparently unable to keep for himself a copy of one of his most important works, because it was too expensive. In the British Museum there is a first edition of his “Treatise on the Art of Music”, Colchester, 1748, with an inscribed dedication “To Doctor Burney with the Compliments of the Author.” Just below this, in the same handwriting appears “Borrowed of Dr. Burney”. There is no copy of the Treatise in Jones’ personal library in Nayland Church. It is the only book missing.

### **The Jones Organ**

While at Nayland he composed works for the organ which he had built by Samuel Green of Isleworth in 1787, to encourage the choir. The instrument became known as the Jones Organ and he became known as Jones of Nayland

W.J. as he was also affectionately known to his friends, died on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1800. He is buried in the vault he prepared for his family beneath the Vestry, close to that of Thomas and Martha (Patty) Smith, Constable’s aunt, which was constructed in 1783.

He was an important churchman who became the inspiration of the High Church Movement of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was also a prolific and entertaining writer and composer. His most famous hymn tune is probably St. Stephen. (*See illustrated copy of the music by Bridget Duckenfield*)

# The Nayland Record

Editor: Blair Lees

Autumn Number 1976

10p

## MORE ABOUT WILLIAM JONES

By Beryl Finch

(A short account of the life of the Reverend William Jones appeared in the summer number of the Record, 1974. Miss Finch's researches at Bury St. Edmunds have widened our knowledge of him considerably, and the following article is based upon the notes that she made then. - ED.)

John Constable and William Jones were linked together during our Constable Bicentennial celebrations this summer in Nayland, and people who had never heard the latter name wondered why. Some of those who had heard of Jones were surprised to learn that he wrote books and also composed sacred and secular music. Who, then, was William Jones of Nayland?

W.J. (as he was known among his friends and intimates) was born in 1726 of Morgan Jones and Sarah, his wife, whose maiden name was Lettin. He was a lineal descendant of Colonel John Jones, the regicide. Colonel Jones was a Member of the Long Parliament, who married Cromwell's sister Catherine but obviously had differences of opinion with his brother-in-law, because he was impeached on a charge of High Treason for supporting the Army in a quarrel with the Government. On that occasion he was pardoned, but he had signed King Charles I's death warrant and shortly after the Restoration he was brought to trial on that account and executed.

The knowledge of his ancestor's crime affected William Jones emotionally for the whole of his life. Until his death he always observed January 30th as a day of humiliation and repentance, locking himself into his study and refusing to see anybody. The memory may even have coloured his political and religious thinking because in both Jones was markedly to the Right. He was influenced, too, by his life-long friendship with George Horne, who became Bishop of Norwich, and both men were students of the writings of the scientist John Hutchinson, who questioned Newton's theory of Gravity and deduced a relationship between geology and the Book of Genesis. His ideas attracted much attention at the time and his followers became known as the Hutchinsonians.

Jones accepted the Perpetual Curacy of Nayland and took up his residence here in 1776. His vicarage almost immediately became the headquarters of a little circle of prominent churchmen which afterwards expanded into the High Church Movement of the early nineteenth century, although he himself never lived to see its fruition.

Some of W.J.'s music was performed in St. James's Church during the bicentennial celebrations, and one of his books was on display in the Village Hall. Both his music and his authorship will be discussed in future articles.

# THE NAYLAND RECORD

SUMMER 1976

3

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

The Parish Recorder writes:-

I wonder what Nayland was like in 1776, the year in which the Reverend William Jones came here as Perpetual Curate and John Constable, the painter, was born lower down the valley at East Bergholt. That it was no longer a thriving wool town we do know, for the Industrial Revolution was then in full swing and people had moved away into larger towns and cities to be near the mills and factories wherein they worked. But what else can old books and documents tell us about our village as it was in those days?

Kirby, in his "Suffolk Traveller" of 1764, tells us that "its inhabitants yet make bays and says", so the cloth trade was still alive in Nayland. He mentions also a weekly Market on Fridays and an annual Fair on September the 21st. But the most informative document I know is a Parish Rent and Rate Roll of 1768 which I have in my possession. This lists, in street order, all the ratepayers and their properties in Nayland at that time, naming six principal inns and 186 other rateable premises, and it is interesting to see that there was a maximum rate of £12 10s. 0d. This applied to the inns and most important houses - the Queen's Head and Alston Court, for instance, were both rated at that amount.

The Rate Roll starts off, appropriately enough, with an entry "Groves Baker for ye Anchor & Lime Kiln" and then wanders down Court Street which apparently in those days extended as far as where Messrs. Deaves is now. There was no High Street. The Crown (these days the White Hart) and the Queen's Head were in Town Street, and Mill Street was just as it is today. Church Lane and the square of houses within which St. James's Church stands were known as "Round the Church" and included one inn, the Horse and Groom, and 23 other rateable properties. Newlands Lane is not mentioned.

Perhaps the most fascinating item in the Rate Roll is the last list of all, headed "Out Setters". An Out Setter was a ratepayer who lived or held property in countryside outside the village but within the Parish boundaries, such as a farmer or owner of a country house, and some of the names make interesting reading. For instance, Edward Campion (Campion's Hill?); Widow Norman "for her farm"; Widow Taylor "for Cawley House & Land" (where is or was that?); and, last but not least at this particular time, Mr. Constable, who paid two separate rents of £8 10s. 0d. and 8s. 6d. respectively.

Have we here a clue to Constable's elusive aunt?

# THE NAYLAND RECORD

CHRISTMAS 1975

(3)

1776 AND ALL THAT!

The Parish Recorder writes:-

If all goes well, life in Nayland will be busy and exciting next year because of two bi-centenaries which are linked in a curious way. John Constable was born in East Bergholt on June 11th, 1776 and the Reverend William Jones took up his residence in Nayland in the same year upon his appointment as Perpetual Curate.

Through the good offices of his aunt, who lived in the Nayland area, we got the Constable painting of Christ in Saint James' Church which is one of the only three religious paintings which he did. Where Constable's aunt lived we do not really know, for the lady is not well documented and elusive, a bit reminiscent of the Scarlet Pimpernel. But there was a Mr. Constable who is listed as an "Outsetter" in the Parish Rate Roll of 1768. He paid an annual rate of £8. 10s. and a rent for his property of 8/6d. and may well have been an uncle of the painter. Constable's aunt may thus have been an aunt-by-marriage, but more research is needed and I hope to have something definite to say about her later on.

William Jones died in January, 1800. He may well have met Constable's aunt. At the very least she listened, probably, to some of his great sermons and the painter himself could have been her escort to church.

So, as I say, the bi-centenaries are quite possibly linked, and in my opinion something should be done about them. Nayland does not want to be swamped by tourists but we should make ourselves ready to play our part in what could be an exciting and profitable year for the Dedham Vale as a whole. My family is connected with John Constable at both ends, as it were, and I would like some attention paid to his bi-centenary. I live in Nayland close by his reredos painting and my sister's family reside in Church Row, Hampstead, within two hundred yards of Constable's handsome grave in the churchyard of Hampstead Parish Church. We both feel that something should be done.

We have a chance to put Nayland on the map without doing any harm whatever to the village. Let us take it!



## ‘The Old Vicarage’, Fen Street, Nayland

Late 18th/early 19th century watercolour

by an unknown artist



The same building c. 1890  
when it was demolished and replaced by  
numbers 22-26 Fen Street