

Moments in Our History

(Excerpts from the Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's 1775 – 1975)

The Employment of Begging (Part 3)

At Poole, Greatheed collected house to house and the Reverend Mr. Ashburner preached a sermon for the St. John's Church. All told, a sum of £144.8.0 was realized. Among the largest subscribers were Mr. Ashburner, George Welsh, John Crew, George Kemp, and Captain John Brown who topped the list with a generous contribution of nearly £50. After the success of Poole, the rest of the tour was rather an anti-climax. Weymouth, Dorchester, Axminster and Heniton yielded altogether only £ 17 though "the minister at each place subscribed handsomely." Thence to Plymouth where he collected £ 14.4.6. at one church and £ 12 from the Meeting of the Reverend Messrs. Mends "with difficulty." The Mends family, however, gave five guineas and Presbyterian subscribers gave £ 6. The Baptist minister, Mr. Gill, rejected it. The Reverend Samuel Greatheed set much store on Dartmouth and "their Newfoundland connection" but here he was disappointed. Together with the ministers he canvassed the principal merchants with no success whatsoever, although a Mr. Newman promised to do something, after consultation with his brothers.