

Moments in Our History

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

The Employment of Begging (Part 4)

Writing from Dartmouth, 11 March 1788, Mr. Greatheed did not hope for much more. “I could not raise £ 5 last Sabbath.” Indeed, he was finding “the employment of Begging an irksome one.” Still he had been pleasantly surprised by the liberality of some. Gosport, despite the fact that they had raised without anyone’s help of £ 2,000 for their own Meeting House, gave him permission to collect and he raised at the door £ 13 including a guinea from a obviously poor man. He had made good friends, particularly the Mends, but “had I £ 300 in the world without others dependent on me, I would freely give it all to be delivered from the burden of collecting.” But they were to be of good cheer. Money was still coming in at Newport Pagnell. “Your letters to Mr. Newton were forwarded to him and cordially received and I hope will prove invitement to his further attention to the case.” Mr. Greatheed still hoped to raise £ 400 before the end of his tour; but perhaps the Committee could defer the church galleries “for another season” and make do with a stove in the vestry but then “I may at present be afflicted with a despondency from the discouragement of this day”!