

crossed, and of the deep snows which often fall in the winter times in those parts, and render all traveling exceeding difficult. Mr. Usher continues now missionary here.

9. The people of Stratford in Connecticut colony, about the year 1708, expressed an earnest desire of having the Church of England worship settled among them. I mentioned a little above, that Mr. Muirson and Colonel Heathcote visited this town in 1706, and they both wrote to the Society very much in favor of this people, desiring a missionary might be sent them. Robert Hunter, Esq., the Governor of New York, wrote thus concerning them in 1711: "When I was at Connecticut, those of our communion at the Church of Stratford, came to me in a body, and then, as they have since by letter, begged my intercession with the venerable Society and the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of London for a missionary; they appeared very much in earnest, and are the best set of men I met with in that country." The Society have had many other advantageous representations of them from their missionaries and others. However the Society could not send a missionary here till the year 1722, so much were they engaged in supplying other places. The Reverend Mr. Pigot was sent missionary here, and so heartily were the people inclined to the Church of England, that the disappointment of having no missionary for near twenty years, did not make them change their well-grounded judgment. They received Mr. Pigot with all kindness, and immediately sat about building a place for public worship. Accordingly Christ's Church in Stratford was founded in 1723, and the building carried on and completed, partly at the charge of the Church of England members there, partly by the liberal contributions of pious gentlemen of the neighboring provinces, together with the bounty of some travelers, who occasionally passing by contributed. It is a timber building, small, but neat, forty-five feet and a half long, and thirty broad, and twenty up to the roof.

The first people who strove to have the Church worship settled here, were about fifteen families, most tradesmen, some husbandmen, who had been born and bred in England, and came and settled here. They, by their discourses about the Church service, first turning their neighbors' thoughts this way. When Mr. Pigot first came here, he had one hundred and fifty hearers, and twenty communicants, and soon after thirty; he was very diligent in his mission, and extended his labors to several neighboring towns. He preached at times at Fairfield, which was eight miles distant from his abode, at Newton, which is twenty miles off, and at Ripton, at the same distance, and administered both sacraments at each place. In eighteen months of his continuance here, he brought over many to the Church, the communicants increased to seventy-nine, he baptized fifty-seven children, and six grown persons. He desired, upon the account of some necessary family concerns, to be removed to Providence, and was so. The Rev. Mr. Johnson was appointed to succeed him in 1723. He was one of those three gentlemen, who left the Independent persuasion, and came to England for Episcopal Ordination in 1722, of whom more will be said a little lower.