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Pond Square Chapel, South Grove, Highgate, London N6 6BA



Our Summer spent in Ghana

Mark Thompson writes about his and Jennifer's summer in Ghana as volunteers for the Ashanti Development charity.

Last August Jenn and I travelled to a small village called Gyetiase, situated in the Ashanti region of Ghana. For those who know the country or who are curiously looking on a map, Gyetiase is about 40 miles north east of the second city, Kumasi.

The reason for our journey was to volunteer for a charity called **Ashanti Development**. The

charity was originally set up by Ghanaians living in the UK, who wanted to help tackle the extreme poverty of their home villages in Ghana. They had already put hard-earned money into rebuilding the primary school, but wanted expert help with water and sanitation. They turned to friends in the UK, and before long, an appeal was set up to get Gyetiase connected to the water pumping station at Mampong, about two miles away. This involved laying pipes along the road. The taps were turned on in 2005 to much rejoicing, for a round trip to collect water from the stream for the women and children of the village can take up to an hour. However, it is not all good news because, for whatever reason, the water company have not felt it necessary to keep a regular flow of water coming.

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