

The Well is Deep



A photographic exhibition looking at the work of the Anglican Church in Ghana.

THE WELL IS DEEP

Jesus told the woman at the well that he offered 'living water'. The Anglican Church in Ghana views its mission as providing communities with access to this living water.

Since gaining independence from British rule in 1957, Ghana has earned itself a reputation for being one of Africa's most stable countries politically. Indeed, the country is often seen as a model for reform on the continent.

However, the country also faces challenges. The Rt Revd Emmanuel Arongo, Bishop of Tamale, explained: 'Ghana is a developing country and, as such, life is not easy. Food can be scarce, especially for those who have no work. Children develop big stomachs and thin legs, and a lack of nutrition affects their school work. Fortunately, we have good drinking water through bore holes, otherwise things would be worse.

'We have National Health Insurance, but not many can afford the insurance so they cannot get good quality healthcare even though there are hospitals. In addition, roads and transport are poor. When women are in labour, they are often transported by donkey and cart along rough terrain from the villages to the health facility. So all these things highlight how difficult life can be for many people.'

The Anglican Church in Ghana is addressing these issues through a range of practical outreach programmes, and it is having a powerful impact.

The Rt Revd Daniel Sarfo, Bishop of

Kumasi, commented: 'The Anglican Church is growing steadily. The worship is dynamic. We have indigenised our worship by using local languages and dialects so the people understand the liturgy and the songs – they understand everything that we do.'

He added: 'Our mission is broad, but it is the basis of the church. It is the mission of God and we are participating in it, so that we live as light and salt. Wherever the church is it must have an impact on society – socially, physically, spiritually and morally – so the church is a transforming agent. We have a lot to do!'

USPG first became connected with Ghana 260 years ago and since then we have supported work in a wide range of areas, including healthcare, training leaders and education. In particular, St Nicholas' Seminary is training a new generation of church leaders who are equipped to preach the gospel in a globalised and pluralistic world.

The Anglican Church is one of the longest-established denominations in Ghana. Today, it is at the forefront of Ghanaian life as it strives to live out the gospel in a fast changing and developing world. ■

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Worship at St James's Anglican Church, Elmina, in the Diocese of Cape Coast. The Anglican Church is trying to make itself accessible to local communities by utilising local styles of music.



Market scene in Elmina, Cape Coast. In regional terms, Ghana is well-administered and is without major conflict, and the country is therefore often held up as a model for democratic political reform in Africa. Despite this, many continue to struggle financially.



Altar at Bishopscourt, the offices of the Bishop of Cape Coast.



The building is Cape Coast Castle. It was built for the trade in timber and gold by the Swedish Africa Company. Later it was used by the British to hold slaves before they were sent to the Americas.



Fishing boats in Elmina harbour. The discovery of major offshore oil reserves was announced in June 2007, and oil – and income – is expected to start flowing in 2010.



Fishing is a major source of industry along the Cape Coast.



Playing in Cape Coast. These children could face a bright future. Ghana is classified as a developing country, the government is predicting Ghana will attain 'middle-income status' by 2015.



These are students at Cape Coast Technical Institute. The institute offers courses in building construction, catering, fashion and plumbing. USPG has helped by sending volunteer tutors.



Vodafone have painted many shop fronts in Cape Coast. One shop owner told USPG photographer Leah Gordon that he was paid with a T-shirt. The shop fronts were visible in news footage when US President Barack Obama visited Cape Coast Castle.



A baby is comforted at the USPG-supported Mampong Babies' Home, in Kumasi. The home accommodates up to 40 vulnerable babies at a time, most lost mothers in childbirth. At around five years old the children are put into the care of extended family.



The Revd Francis Sencherey, chaplain at Mampong Babies' Home, said: 'If it were not for the home, most of these children would not survive. The care of children is a very important part of mission. It is like caring for a seedling.'

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The Rt Revd Daniel Sarfo, Bishop of Kumasi, Ghana



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