



## Mission Partner of the Month – July 2021

The Brickworks was founded in 2009 to work exclusively in the very needy nation of South Sudan. After many years of civil war, its health statistics were among the worst in the world. Very high levels of maternal mortality, few qualified doctors and nurses, few trained teachers, few homes had access to clean water or a latrine and many children were dying before their fifth birthday. UNICEF announced in 2016 that more teenage girls die in childbirth than finish secondary school. The needs were enormous.



Over the last ten years, The Brickworks has worked in partnership with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) to help it to make a difference. This has meant investing in church schools, to improve classrooms, and in teacher training. Church clinics have also been supported to ensure that only qualified clinical staff are recruited, having trained as clinical officers, nurses, midwives and laboratory technicians. A key partnership is with the Diocese of Yei, South Sudan, where John and Poppy Spens worked until 2011. The photo above is of Yei cathedral which is near to the Diocesan Clinic. A new Bishop called Bishop Levi was installed in Yei at the end of June, following the retirement of Bishop Hilary.



The Diocese of Yei strongly believes in holistic ministry and that its people deserve decent schools and decent health facilities. This was the rationale for opening an eye clinic which ran very successfully for several years before it was forced to close in 2016 due to insecurity. The staff were among the many who fled for safety to Uganda and are now living in refugee camps. That was until early in 2019 when, thanks to an HOTC grant from St Michael's church, staff could return to Yei and the clinic could re-open. This is the only specialist eye clinic in the whole area and people travel from all around for eye treatment or for spectacles. In May 2021, Brickworks organised and funded 119 patients for cataract surgery to restore their sight.





For the last 3 years, The Brickworks has also supported the ECSS Diocese of KajoKeji which is now based in Uganda, having been forced to flee from South Sudan. The Brickworks funds four under tree schools in the camps, catering for over 4,000 primary school children and funds several teachers to be trained. Each

under tree school has been linked with a UK primary school, including St Michael's and Wallscourt Farm Academy in Cheswick.

There are a variety of ways that The Brickworks tries to help the church to make a difference in very tough conditions, where so many of its people are away from their normal homes and living in refugee camps.

The Brickworks believes in the need to train church leaders and so is giving financial support to the Bishop Alison Theological College which was forced to move from South Sudan to Uganda. 20 pastors are now in training, but unfortunately schools, colleges and churches were shut again in June due to another COVID lockdown.

Youth in the refugee camps are often bored with nothing to do. St Michael's funded discipleship training programmes for 100 Christian youth leaders, led by one of the ECSS Bishops.



There is a huge need to help young people to train as teachers and health workers. Yet though they may have the right entry qualifications, they have no way of paying the tuition fees. A scholarship from The Brickworks can be life changing. One sponsored student is Pita Rachael (left) who is a trainee clinical officer. She married in 2010, lost both parents in 2012, and she was widowed in 2016. She had 3 children, but one died last year. Her sister was to pay her fees but she lost her job recently and so The Brickworks stepped in. Pita Rachael should qualify as a Clinical Officer at the end of 2021 but has missed a lot of her education due to COVID restrictions.

In Yei in South Sudan, The Brickworks has funded four new classrooms for a church school. Amazingly even with COVID restrictions, the school was completed and furnished on time.

- 1. Please pray for peace to return to South Sudan to enable the 1.3 million refugees in Uganda to return home.**
- 2. Please pray for the Nursery and Primary Schools in the refugee camps that, though the facilities may be few, the teaching would be of good quality to give the children a decent education.**
- 3. Pray for all the children and students in South Sudan and Uganda who have missed a lot of school due to COVID.**
- 4. Pray that COVID-19 will stop spreading widely in South Sudan, and that the Martha Clinic staff will have enough medicines so they can treat all those who are ill. Pray for the roll out of the vaccination programme which has hardly started.**