



## Mission Partner of the Month – May 2023

The Brickworks was founded in 2008 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 primary school. The needs were enormous.



Over the last fifteen years, The Brickworks has worked in partnership with the Episcopal Church of Sudan and South Sudan (ECSSS) to help it to make a difference. A key partnership is with the ECSSS Diocese of Yei, South Sudan, where John and Poppy Spens worked from 2006 until 2011. The Diocese of Yei strongly believes in holistic ministry and that its people deserve decent schools and decent health facilities. This has meant investing in church schools, to improve classrooms and to build new ones.

In 2022, a new classroom block (right) was funded by The Brickworks and this year some school desks were donated. John Spens was able to attend the opening of this classroom block in September 2022.



Very few teachers have a qualification so this year The Brickworks has awarded 33 scholarships to teachers to be trained for the next two years at the local church-based teacher training college.

The Martha Primary Health Care Centre (right) is managed by the Diocese of Yei and treats over 20,000 patients a year and offers consultations, laboratory tests, a pharmacy, immunisations, HIV testing/counselling, family planning, ante natal care, deliveries, and post-natal care. The Brickworks currently funds the salaries of clinic staff, purchases medicines and the training of a midwife and two nurses.



The Martha Clinic also has a specialist eye department which closed in 2016 but thanks to a grant from St Michaels it was able to re-open in 2019. This is the only specialist eye clinic in the whole area and people travel from all around for eye treatment or for spectacles. Annual cataract camps are organised and funded by The



Brickworks and to date more than 1000 successful cataract operations have been performed, restoring sight to many patients who previously could hardly see. In early March this year, 98 patients received cataract surgery.

The Bishop Alison Theological College, which trains ECSSS ordinands, returned to Yei from Uganda in January this year. The Brickworks supported the college during the years it was in exile.

In the last 4 years, The Brickworks has also supported the ECSSS Diocese of KajoKeji which relocated to Uganda in 2017, having been forced to flee from South Sudan. The Brickworks funds three under tree schools in the refugee settlements, catering for 3,500 primary school children. Each under tree school has been linked with a UK primary school, including the two in our parish - St Michael's and Wallscourt Farm Academy in Cheswick. However, people are gradually returning from refugee camps to Kajo Keji, partly led by the Diocese which moved its HQ and College back to KajoKeji last year. Things are still not safe and more than 20 people were recently murdered in local violence.

The Brickworks sees the training of laity as important and has funded courses for church treasurers, and the training of church youth leaders in the refugee settlements. All this training is delivered by local church leaders and aims to strengthen the South Sudanese churches.



With funds from St Michael's, The Brickworks was

able to support a project led by Bishop Seme Nigo (who visited St Michael's last summer) which is translating the Bible into the local Keliko language. The photo shows the presentation of a New Testament to a member of the Mothers Union, which was one of 160 copies paid for by a gift from St Michael's church. The St

Michael's gift not only paid for 160 New Testaments but also the office rent for 3 months for the translation team.

**Thank you, St Michael's Church, for your amazing support.**

**Please pray:**

- 1. For the work of the Martha Primary Health Care Centre.**
- 2. That the road from Uganda remains safe for medicine delivery to Yei.**
- 3. For the churches that they can reach out to their communities to share God's love in these hard times.**
- 4. For the youth leader training conferences in Uganda.**
- 5. For peace in South Sudan so that refugees can return home.**
- 6. For the health and education students in their studies.**

**St Michael's Church Link:** John and Poppy Spens.

**Website:** [www.thebrickworks.org.uk](http://www.thebrickworks.org.uk)