



**St Michael's Church**  
Stoke Gifford



## Mission Partner of the Month – March 2026



### ***The Brickworks***



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 are the worst in the world. It has very high levels of maternal mortality, few qualified doctors and nurses, few trained teachers, few homes have access to clean water or a latrine and many children die before their fifth birthday. UNICEF announced in 2016 that more teenage girls die in childbirth than finish primary school. Many people live on less than the equivalent of \$1 US dollar per day.

Over the last seventeen years, The Brickworks has worked in partnership with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) to help it to make a difference. A key partnership is with the ECSS 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 supporting a busy clinic and investing in church schools, to improve classrooms and to build new ones.



Many of the church-run primary schools have poor facilities (like these) but this is all that the congregations can afford. The Brickworks has attracted grant funding to improve a few schools but most remain very basic. Very few teachers have a qualification so The Brickworks is sponsoring the training of 10 more teachers, chosen by the Diocese, on the Certificate of Education course running at the Yei Teacher Training College.



The Martha Primary Health Care Centre (left) is managed by the Diocese of Yei and treats around 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 funds some of the qualified members of staff as well as paying for most of the medicines, which are imported from

Uganda. This has become a big challenge because the condition of the road is awful and rebel forces sometimes attack those travelling on the road.

For the last two years, St Michael's Church has been funding the running costs of the Martha Eye Clinic, which is the only functioning eye clinic for 100 miles. Every year, a team of eye specialists come to Yei for a week, to carry out over 100 cataract operations and to treat complicated eye conditions. Thanks to a generous donation from a church in Bradley Stoke, the cataract camp last year was fully funded. This year, the costs of the cataract surgery will be met by a generous legacy. The funding from St Michael's HOTC will run out at the end of this month, and we are praying that the discussions the Diocese is having with the Christian Blind Mission will be fruitful.

**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 youth leader training in the Dioceses of Yei, Panyana and Morobo
4. For peace in South Sudan as there are growing tensions between the political groups.
5. For the 10 teacher training students in their courses at Yei Teacher Training College.

### **[The Brickworks | Rebuilding lives in South Sudan](#)**

**St Michael's Link Person: John & Poppy Spens**

#### **Other St Michael's Mission News**

- Please continue to pray for the staff at Al Ahli hospital (Embrace Partner in Gaza) as they are the only functioning hospital in North Gaza and have shortages of everything!
- Please pray for Ruslan and Larisa in Moldova and for Mary Cottrell, as they explore ways for the church in Gotesti to become self-sustainable – to be able to fund its ministries itself, rather than being dependent on funds from other countries – pray for breakthrough.
- In India the gap between the rich and poor is getting wider - and half the cases of leprosy in the world are in India - pray that the Lord will bless leprosy colonies in Odisha (a very poor state in the east) and across India.
- InHope foodbank fed 7,652 people in the last six months of 2025 - which means 68,868 meals were provided!
- From Bishop Martin Gordon, Goma, DRC: Very many people are turning to Christ following the extreme violence accompanying the 2025 invasion by the Rwandan-backed M23 rebel group. Pray for those new believers and for on-going peace talks.