



## Latest news – March 2024

Dear Friends, as we mentioned in our December newsletter, January 2024 marked the start of a new focus for The Brickworks, specifically on the country of South Sudan. Our work in Uganda has come to an end and, coincidentally, this broadly coincides with the steady return of refugees from Uganda. To mark this change to our areas of work, we have printed a new tri-fold leaflet. Do please contact us if you would like a few leaflets to give to friends.

Our work this year will fall mainly into three areas:

- Support for the Martha Clinic, Martha Eye Clinic and Cataract camps. (about 60%)
- Training schoolteachers, although a few scholarships for health staff will continue. (20%)
- Supporting the church in the training of clergy, ordinands and youth. (20%)

Of course, there will always be other things where we can help. At the end of January, we received a request from the Diocese of KajoKeji asking if we could help with repairing some primary school classrooms (right) that were in disrepair. We had funded their construction in 2016 but they were never used due to the evacuation of KajoKeji town in 2017 and were then looted and damaged, and the grounds became overgrown and bushy. The classrooms are badly needed so that the school can re-open for the many children returning from refugee camps. We are grateful to the charity African Revival who provided a grant for the repairs, repainting and for new school desks. We hope the school will re-open soon.



News from the Martha Clinic is good. We were able to apply for a grant to help the Martha Clinic raise its 25% contribution towards the purchase of a new ambulance that an international donor had agreed to fund 75%. After a long journey via Mombasa in Kenya, the ambulance arrived in Juba where it was dedicated and prayed for by the archbishop and his staff before the final part of its journey Yei.

We had concerns that the ending of the Health Pooled Fund on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 would impact the employment of some of the Martha Clinic staff that are supported through this fund, but we have heard the HPF is to be extended by three months and then transferred to UNICEF. We are hopeful that the clinic will still receive support through the new funding regime.



Plans have been made for the next cataract camp at the Martha Eye Clinic to be held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. We anticipate more than 100 patients will have their eyesight restored.

As January in South Sudan is the time for the long school holiday, this is a good time for the churches to organise their training programmes. We see this as an important part of our work in South Sudan and so we are happy to provide financial support, with the training being provided locally. Two separate weeks of discipleship training took place in Yei and Morobo for over 150 young people and clergy training will take place this month in Yei and Morobo.

Since March last year, 3 of us have been experimenting with a website called [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and have so far raised £165 for The Brickworks. It's simple to use and we now feel comfortable about inviting our supporters to join in. You may perhaps have already heard of it or be using it? Whenever we go online to buy from over 8000 retailers such as eBay, LV insurance, booking.com, John Lewis, Argos, M&S, etc., the retailer gives a small percentage of what we spend to The Brickworks via easyfundraising. Sometimes it's just a few pence but every little helps and it costs you nothing. If you live in the UK and aren't doing something like this already for your church or favourite charity, please consider whether you might do this for The Brickworks or get in touch with us if you would have questions or would like us to send you the link to our page on [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk).

Lastly, we are beginning to plan our next visit to Yei for the last week of September and early October. We have several people thinking about joining us so do pray for them and that we have the right team to make this a really useful visit.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

John and Poppy Spens

*The ambulance at the Martha Clinic in Yei and ready for use.*



*The young people at the end of the Discipleship training in Morobo, South Sudan*

