

ST ANDREW'S URC (WALTON) *ArtPeace* INITIATIVE



EVEN POTHOLES HAVE THEIR USES! During a recent visit to relations 100 kms north of Harare, artist Fortune Masiyiwa's wife Norah ventured into the bush with her sister seeking caterpillars which are quite a delicacy. On route, she crossed a trunk road pitted with potholes (ring any bells?) partially filled with stones smoothed by numerous heavy trucks trundling to Zambia. Some stones whose colours had been accentuated by heavy rain caught her eye. Norah wondered if they might be suitable for sculpting. The local people told her the stones came from a nearby hilly area. The sisters explored and it was not long before they discovered similar marked stones which had to be prised from the ground. Fortune was so impressed with a sample that he and Norah returned the following week to collect larger stones.



Photo left of Norah wading through a river with a bag of stones balanced on her head. They hitched a ride on a horse and scotch cart back to the main road and completed the journey home to Harare by bus. Norah sadly is now very ill with malaria. Fortune (below left), subsequently showed these



unusual stones to two of Zimbabwe's most famous artists: **Dominic Benhura** (below centre) and **Tapfuma Gutsa** (below right) in dreadlocks. Neither had come across such attractive stone and were keen to know the source but Artpeace will keep this a secret as it might give them a competitive edge re sales. The simple owls above carved by Fortune, are now in Walton, and highlight the stone's unusual markings. The source of these rocks is the Great Dyke, a 2.5 billion years old 500km long ridge, rich in complex minerals which form the country's geological backbone. It is this rare mix of minerals which gives Zimbabwe's artists a unique array of raw material to craft into some of the world's most glorious works of art.



TAPERA JOHN: The sculptures shown below the heading of this article were made by Tapera



John (left) a talented friend of AP's Godfrey William. Tapera's style is similar to his friend Dominic Benhura. Many of our artists grew up with Zimbabwe's finest artists. Three samples of Tapera's work are currently on their way to us.



CHENJERAI: Sadly the 40 year old blind wood carver (right) based at Silveira House who specialised in Nativity sets, has passed away. Fr

Konrad commented: *'What a sad evening of his life. Sick, blind, but now he sees the real light!'*



SOUTHWARK REVIST ARTPEACE: Andrew Nunn the Dean of Southwark Cathedral

reports: *'On the final day of our visit to Zimbabwe and our link Anglican Diocese of Masvingo, we headed back into Harare in order to fly home. It gave us the perfect opportunity to visit ArtPeace and to meet those whose work we already know so well through our*



Cathedral Shop. It also gave us the opportunity to meet Fr Konrad SJ. We were surprised by a number of things. For instance, ArtPeace, is one project located in a complex where a great deal of development work is going on. The place buzzes with activity. We were delighted to see that the project has created what can only be

described as a 'sculpture park' displaying some of the larger pieces of work. Set amongst the trees, the artists were waiting for us to talk about their work and themselves. Amongst them was Peter Kananji whose personal story had really affected us. It was good to hear that he and his wife are now well after their traumas. The visit to ArtPeace was the culmination of a fantastic visit to a wonderful country. Wherever we went we met people full of joy and hope, doing great things with very little in the way of resources but with a desire to make things better. When I look at the work for sale in the Cathedral Shop I will now have the faces of our friends before me.'



Photos: Above left, Fr Konrad SJ with Dean Andrew Nunn. Right: Alison Shapton, a member of Southwark Cathedral's Masvingo Link Group with artists Lizeni and Shingi. Johnston Simpson

BELOW : A selection of pieces available for sale in 'The Shed' in a variety of stones eg. verdite, fruit springstone and cobalt etc. If interested, please contact me at: jbsimpson@hotmail.co.uk

