

St Andrew's URC ArtPeace Initiative

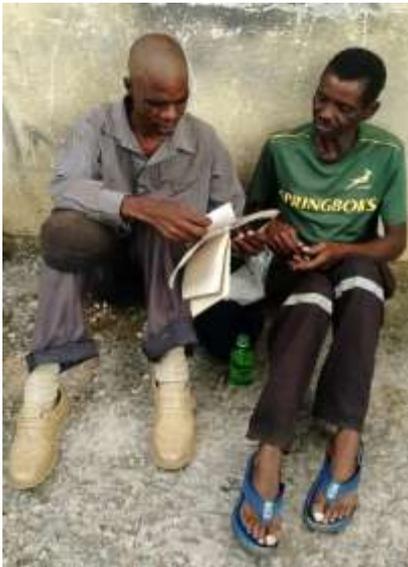
MUTINY! Unrest and lawlessness among Zimbabweans, fed by anger against their government is escalating, the latest trouble spot being Chikurubi, Harare's maximum security prison only a stone's throw away from Silveira House. Fr David's visits as a prison chaplain last year were always welcomed by the prisoners at Chikurubi but for some inexplicable reason were cancelled by the authorities. Readers will recall a prison chaplain's recent visit to SH pleading for money to buy cabbages for starving prisoners. Since then, prisoners' tempers finally erupted! A friend said: 'They took guards hostage for 3 hours and removed their guns demanding better treatment. The army was called and opened fire - the first incident of its kind since independence: Five prisoners were killed or died later of their wounds.' A well informed source suspects the deaths were understated and said: 'Local people are being told to keep food safe at home due to looting owing to the hunger situation - anything could happen'.



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HUNGER: ArtPeace and their families know all about hunger. Below left: An emaciated Godfrey



in green shirt is very slowly recovering from TB helped by our funds. He is being told the importance of taking his medication daily at set times and eating properly by fellow artist Fortune. They are looking at Godfrey's medical reports. Fr Konrad said: 'John, Godfrey struggled in to see me the other day begging for money - he looked awful.' Right, a haggard Peter Kananji is determined to continue sculpting despite being weak from a lack of food and still with breathing



difficulties. Like all the artists, Peter is the main breadwinner for his large extended family.

HOW WE SURVIVE: Artist Fortune said: 'John. The scene (left) shows the old Tafara shopping centre. The ground is bone dry due to drought. So many businesses have closed down that numerous people are forced to sell vegetables and second hand clothes as a way of surviving. Even school children take turns to help their parents although they will miss school. Everyone is trying to sell things - anything - as there are no jobs but who has the money to buy? Perhaps your friends will understand why it's so tough for us all here! One can spend the whole day without selling anything so the trick is to have as many selling points as possible manned by children. It's the only way to put food on the table - it's painful! Please inform all our church friends how we live - if you can call it living! This is why we value their support so highly.'



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URC HELPING HAND: ArtPeace were buoyed by support following the last article due to sculpture purchases by members of Fleetwood, Marlow, Ealing URCs and at the Windermere URC Centre not forgetting a few donations. Used mobiles were also gratefully received from Josje and Anne. **Marlow URC**, who have proved a huge support in the past, were moved by the last article. On learning that the group had run out of stone, their congregation agreed to finance the purchase of 7 tonnes from Kwekwe mines. This generous gesture will ensure employment for the whole group. Eight artists are currently 220kms away at the mines - a tough labour intensive exercise which I hope to cover in a subsequent newsletter. The last expedition resulted in the arrest of the work party who were thrown in jail over the weekend and beaten for taking a few harmless poverty photos. Marlow's generosity boosted morale especially amongst the very sick. ArtPeace have designated an area of their workplace to 'Marlow' stating: *'The word 'Marlow' inspires us and has transformed our lives.'* More good news! Last Sunday, Susan and I held a sale at **St Erconwald's**. As usual we were warmly welcomed by Fr John an enthusiast of African art. Their congregation came up trumps and the sale realised £580!



MARIA'S STORY: Peter Kananji sent the following story: '41 yr. old Maria Gumbo's husband died a few weeks ago of Aids and she misses him. Her 2 children were both born HIV and have passed away. She herself is infected by her husband's condition and suffers trying to exist on vegetables (photo left of Maria outside her home). Mr Simpson, Maria was crying when she told me her story. I hope you can find someone to help this poor lady before we lose her. Her home has no proper roof and is leaking.'

WHATSAPP: is marvellous technology enabling me to 'hold group meetings' even though many artists are often off site. It is quick and easy to send text messages and photos. The problem remains a lack of mobiles. New budget models would be the ideal and more robust. They are our **only** means of communication so if any kind reader feels inclined to make their lives easier and enhance business, please contact me. After stone, good communication



is essential to the cooperative. Finally, I regret the somewhat grim nature of this article but it depicts life for many decent people in Zimbabwe. We have everything; they have nothing and it rather makes a mockery of the oft used word 'austerity' in our fair land!

Johnston Simpson



Easter Greetings to all their UK friends from ArtPeace



Easter Angel by Coster Balakasi

SAMPLE OF PIECES IN SHED AVAILABLE FOR SALE (mantelpiece size).

Many thanks to those who purchased pieces shown in the March article – sales proceeds are now with the artists. **Googling 'YouTube' and typing: 'African Princess Martin Beck', will reveal [ArtPeace Video 1](#), a selection of the artists' work set to music.**

The stunning pieces below have just arrived. ArtPeace and I are indebted to a kind couple from Harare over visiting their family. They brought a massive 26kgs of parcels!

*Toadstools in Fruit Serpentine
by a friend of Shingirai Masedza*



*Birds in Fruit Springstone by Teddy
Masedza and right by Peter Kananji*



Young Girl

in Fruit Springstone by Peter Kananjú



Small Tortoises by Mark a friend of ArtPeace.



Torso left and *Womanhood* right in Fruit Springstone

both by Peter Kananjú



Small Penguins by Mark a friend of ArtPeace



Pumpkins in Fruit Springstone

by Coster Balakasi



Birds in Fruit SpringStone by Lizeni Nasho



Giraffe Family by Michael Mukolosi



Owls by Stanley Mutanga a friend of ArtPeace.



Eye of the Flower by Edmore Sango a friend of ArtPeace

