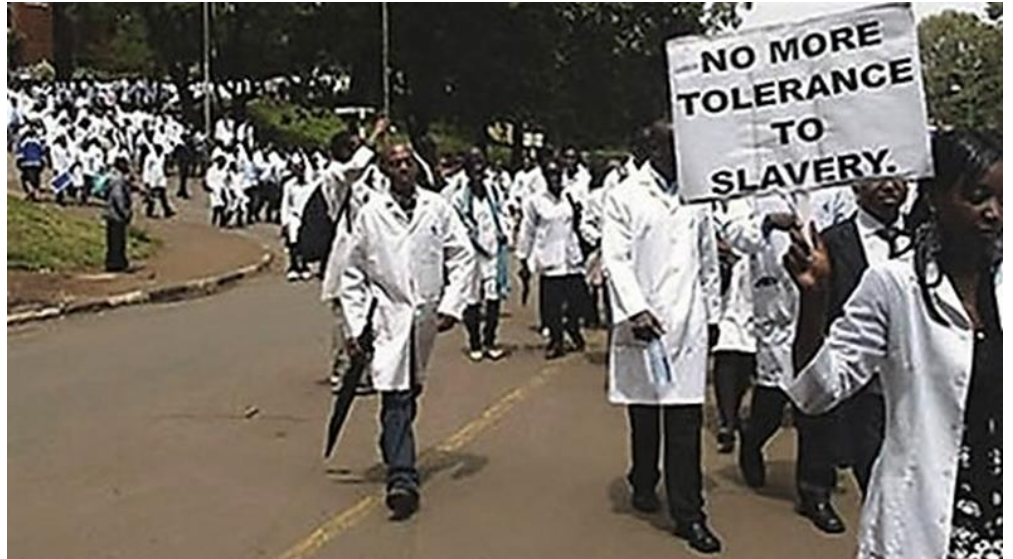


ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

MUSIC TO THEIR EARS: Artpeace were delighted to receive proceeds from a recent charity concert. The initiative came from Dr Martyn Warsop an elder and organist at Toller URC (Kettering). Martyn wanted to celebrate his 60th in a different worthwhile way. Ably supported by the congregation and a plethora of talented musicians and singers, the evening proved a huge success raising £1103.20. Artpeace said this money could not have come at a better time. For example - Chiedza (meaning Brightness) - artist Fortune's pregnant sister-in-law fell ill and had



to be rushed to hospital. Unfortunately, all the doctors were on strike (above right) as Zimbabwe's government had yet again delayed payment of their salaries. The family had to await their return to work by which time the baby had tragically died. To make matters worse, the family could not afford 170\$ for a cremation. Chiedza (above left), lost a lot of blood and is still seriously ill as the family need to pay for blood transfusions – not only for the transfusion but for actual blood which costs 6\$ a unit! How they would love our NHS! I was also shocked to see



how frail artist Lizeni Nasho (photo extreme right) had become and she needs urgent medical attention – two of many examples where the money will be put to such good use. The photo above left of Artpeace and Skills Dept. at Silveira House was taken immediately after receipt of the donation. The artists were therefore able to pay the bus fare to visit their rural villages and share donations with extended families ensuring that several hundred people would benefit from Toller URC's brilliant effort. There was much joy and relief from their visits.



Sales at Southwark are steady and the Cathedral shop even had a large order from Guernsey. Also, David and Arlene Schmidt, an American couple on holiday who happened by chance to be staying in Walton recently, stopped to admire St Andrew's garden. They accepted my invitation to see our church where a Messy children's service had just ended. They left with a small elephant from our display (as one does). On return to Northern Virginia they decided they wanted three more pieces which will soon be on the way.

#This Flag: A moving spoken word on video - a social media campaign advocating peaceful resistance by Pastor Evans Mawarire on the occasion of Zimbabwe's 36th Independence anniversary spread like wildfire throughout Zimbabwe and the world. This Flag, which nearly shut Zimbabwe down was motivated by despair. His campaign was not connected to any political party or people of influence. Harare's streets were deserted for one day. Many supermarkets had few customers. Most private schools and banks were closed as were the few surviving manufacturing



companies. Many children did not turn up at government schools. For many it was the largest stay away in Zimbabwe's history. 'We can't survive any more. We can't live any more, and when I couldn't pay school fees, that was it.' said Evans. Inevitably he landed up in a police station facing charges of treason. However, thousands of ordinary citizens gathered in defiance outside the city's Magistrate's Court, forcing a usually pliant magistrate to uphold the law through the sheer force of their collective will. Evans was released but has subsequently moved to South Africa with his family for safety. His video below is well worth viewing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LubMilbHiPg>



Unrest: There has been civil unrest recently in various parts of the country as people resist corruption by police who deal with peaceful protests in their usual manner -ie. violence! (photo above right).



Centre: Coster celebrating his 44th birthday with Peter and Shingi, Coster made his own modest cake. **Right: Humour** - this cartoon picture sent by Artpeace made me laugh! Despite years of poverty and frustration, they still retain a sense of humour and resilience!

Miscellaneous photos:
Left: 'The Good Shepherd' a lovely piece in Fruit Springstone by Peter Kananji soon to arrive.

Johnston Simpson