

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

'A LIVING NIGHTMARE' said Southwark Cathedral's Dean Andrew Nunn to his shocked congregation on Sunday 11th June, following the recent atrocity at London Bridge when the



whole area was cordoned off by police for forensic examination. Hundreds packed the ancient edifice in the heart of the neighbourhood which had come under attack eight days earlier. Moments after the attack around 10pm in nearby Borough Market, police broke down the cathedral doors and smashed glass checking for any terrorist activity. The western door was boarded up and screened off. The door to the sacristy shows signs of the baton rounds police fired in their effort to gain access. ['A church had been on the site of the cathedral for 1,400 years'](#), Andrew stated: ['Those years have seen their share](#)

[of war, pestilence and fire, but I doubt that ever before has the church been inaccessible to worshippers for a week, inaccessible as the place of peace and contemplation people expect and need, inaccessible as the place of welcome and embracing radical hospitality and love that we seek to be. But it happened.'](#) Artpeace were distressed at the loss of lives as they have formed a strong attachment with Southwark over the years. The shop closure will affect sculpture sales but this is a minor inconvenience compared to the grievous loss suffered by so many.

NO CHANGE: Zimbabwe's own tragedy spanning decades continues unabated seldom making news in the UK. Artist Godwin sent photos and this story of life typical for countless children. 8-year-old Tatenda and his 6-year-old sister Patience are left to do most of the chores



at home after their mother was diagnosed with the deadly HIV virus. They have had to mature quickly otherwise the effects of malnutrition would become more pronounced. After learning his wife was HIV positive, their father abandoned them and if still alive, may be continuing to spread the disease to unsuspecting females. The mother, left with no source of sustenance, scrounges for food and ekes out a living. The demands of the antiretroviral drugs, which require a proper and reliable diet, often forces impoverished affected persons to default on the medication as was the case with the children's mother. Her CD4 count has now

drastically changed for the worst dropping to alarming levels. The children have long dropped out of school as fee arrears forced school authorities to refuse entry - another classic case of how HIV affects many families in poverty stricken

Africa. The mother has since been admitted into hospital, leaving the little ones to fend for themselves.

LOOKING AWAY: ['I fear for the moral fibre of our society'](#), said artist Christine Ndoro. ['Each day, many blind people for whom even a white stick is a luxury, are led onto the streets by able bodied relatives to beg, braving cold weather and scorching sunshine. They have become such a normal part of our landscape that we do not see or hear their pleas for help. If we do, we fear there is not enough to share so we look away and utter a prayer for God to take over.'](#)

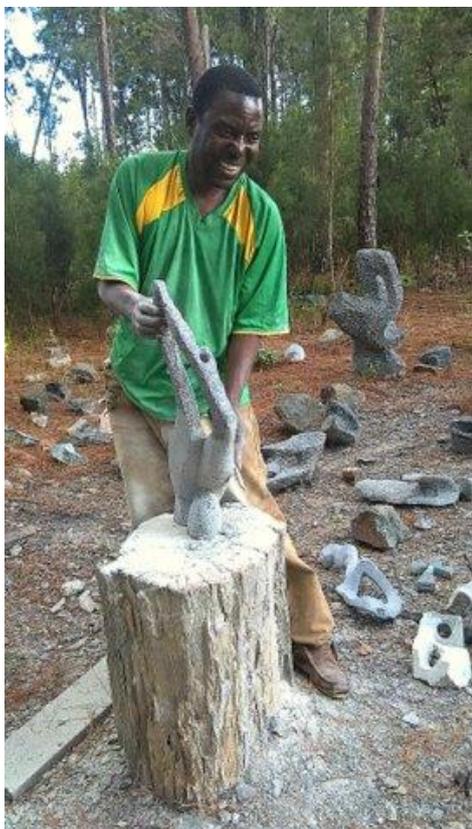


HOW WOULD OUR CHILDREN COPE? Photos by artist Ignatius: **Left:** 3 young boys - Tinashe, Francis and Jeke walk to school in flip flops from Chikuni village to Mutoko – a



distance of 6 miles. **Centre:** Bernard Sande and his grand mother walk 9 miles from their village simply to wash clothes in the Nyagadzi river. Mutoko is a drought area and people struggle to fetch water. **Right:** Young Bernard is trying to erect a dura wall of poles to protect the family’s little vegetable crop as it is difficult to protect same from goats and other animals.

SMILING THROUGH ADVERSITY: Despite numerous problems the latest being a shortage of raw stone, Artpeace put on a brave face. An election looms next year and they fear



their largely greedy corrupt government will again cheat its way to success resulting inevitably in another round of farm invasions, evictions, lost jobs, homes and production sanctioned by their 93-year-old President. However, they put on a brave face and concentrate on trying to survive from day to day feeding and providing for their large extended families. Positive news from St Andrew’s and Southwark can make a huge difference to their morale so again, I would like to thank St Andrew’s and all our friends out there who have made donations or purchased a piece of their work bringing joy into their lives. **Photos:** Left, Lovemore



James at work at Silveira House and right, one of his beautiful bird creations. **Johnston Simpson**