

St Andrew's URC (Walton) **ARTPEACE** Initiative



CONTEMPLATION: I am impressed by Godwin Nasho's skill - one tiny slip of the chisel and his delicate creation below would have been ruined. However, his carving titled 'Contemplation' has made me think and question whether these articles continue to interest the congregation as feedback is minimal but our editor has a similar experience with the newsletter in general.



Perhaps too many years of reporting the trials and tribulations of Zimbabweans with photos taken and stories provided by our friends have lost their appeal? Thankfully our joint annual Harvest Collection with CfL still bears fruit. Perhaps St A's should have its own brightly lit glass display sales cabinet highlighting their art and open to the Walton public say, over a coffee once a week or month? Who knows? This could form an integral unique part of our mission and an opportunity to *engage* with the public as we try to shape our church for the future.

Conversely, it may be time for a change or to focus on Commitment for Life. The congregation's thoughts and ideas would be appreciated.

TALENT: Some youngsters unable to afford school have turned to sculpting. Even the little chap (below right) seems to be a dab hand with hammer and chisel! Also, Mike Masedza said 'Ten year old Adam is an orphan who cannot afford to go to school. Most of his time is spent at an art centre trying to showcase his talent. Hey! Only 10 and he can do wonders! He wants to return to school to do art part time. A brilliant young boy! The photo (below left), shows Adam working like a true professional.'

COMMUNICATION remains a big problem.

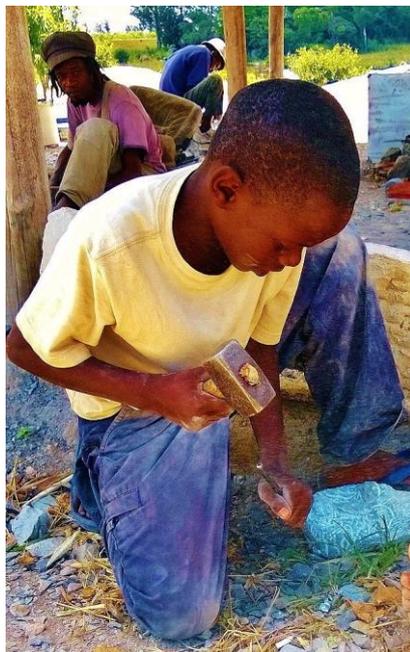
Artists may soon have to buy used Smart camera phones with hard earned sales money to keep in touch as my only contact with a PC/printer looks like being made redundant



in May which will be a huge blow.

IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS :

Peter Kananji who lost his baby son over a month ago was forced to beg for money to pay for hospital treatment for Justin his other young son seriously ill with dysentery. We struggle together to find a way forward but so often it's one step forward, two steps back. I never thought that after so many years, their lives would still be desperately hard and so stressful. Artpeace are hungry and often make do with one



bowl of maize porridge per day. There appears no respite for these people. A few days ago, Lovemore wrote: *'Hi John. My spirit is worried by how problems keep on coming to the poor people. I am asking questions to God why is He turning a blind eye on us? Does that mean the whole world is poor? Oh God, what sin have*

we committed? We are now selling our souls to try to get help. Please Father this suffering must end soon with faith, hope and love'. Lovemore has since been forced to sell his treasured old Nokia mobile to appease his landlord.

STOP PRESS: Young Ignatius (right) who has a family said: *'John. I borrowed my friend's mobile as I sorely want to communicate with you. Things are not good! My landlord removed my possessions from my home as before. He gave me a week to get his money without fail so it looks as if this Friday I am going to court. I already face hardship and now this! It's*



such a difficult time for me. I am nowhere. However, we do not expect good things. Sometimes we are happy, sometimes we are angry - that's life - more problems for a poor man. I keep asking why God cannot stop such bad things happening'. The artists often vent their anger to me through sheer frustration. Whilst *we* are enthused and preoccupied with St Andrew's future, Artpeace's entire effort is focussed on their families: desperately trying to survive from one day to the next. This is why your support is so welcome and makes such a difference to their lives. It is a good opportunity to thank some members for recent support.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD! Fr David recently assisted at a funeral in his new parish at Braeside, Harare and chanced upon a UK visitor over for the service. Amazingly, Reg works in Hersham, so in addition to receiving 16kgs crafts in the middle of Waitrose car park last week, I gained a new friend. Pieces kindly taken back by staff from Stonyhurst College, Lancs have also arrived so 'the shed' is full again! Right - a few sample pieces brought back by our couriers.



Header photo: *Years ago I walked the granite hills at Domboshawa where 6000 yr old cave animal paintings of rhinos, kudu, warthogs & buffalo are to be found. This site is of international importance for the varieties of lichen that grow on the granite outcrops. Zimbabwe is a beautiful country.* **Johnston Simpson**

OTHER EXAMPLES OF WORK IN STOCK:

