

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**RESILIENCE:** Whilst Zimbabwe remains in a political, social and economic crisis, due to its government's failure to ensure a better life for its citizens by ending corruption and excessive greed by top politicians and State officials, Artpeace and Friends grit their teeth and soldier on.

**POSITIVE SUPPORT:** 2016 was a year of drought but our support including record Southwark Cathedral sales made a big impact on many fronts from school fees, medicines, deepening wells,



quality tools to seed and fertilizers. **Christine Ndoro** (right) a talented painter, sculptor and a potential new member of the group said: 'It's funny how the skies have teased us like a virgin lover in courtship. I smell the rain, I taste the humidity and I see the grey skies. The sky is such a flirt, refusing to give in. She is shy and confused. When she finally surrenders, we will all be thankful. We have waited and watched and waited. Utterly teased and taunted, when the rain finally does come and washes over us and fills our wells, and floods our drain pipes, may it wash away the filth, hurt and pain of 2016.' The rains have finally arrived and crops are thriving indicating a better yield.



Left - a happy Godwin Nasho amongst his vibrant green maize hoping for a bumper harvest.

**LIZENI NASHO:** Lizeni's health (photo below left) has improved and the group are overjoyed as they thought their sister might not survive. Photo below centre taken in hospital last November.



A relieved Nasho family thank everyone for their support which covered hospital tests, scans plus a course of treatment.



**CHRISTMAS:** Artpeace and Friends managed to have a good Christmas thanks to donations and sales proceeds sent in early December lifting numerous families. Fortune sent this colourful photo of himself alongside a clown and said: 'Churches sponsored a clown to hand out presents to very poor children.'

**CLOUD:** A large cloud looms on the horizon with the potential closure of the Windermere URC Centre. Artpeace enjoy sales at the Centre so the group made a strongly emotional video - click on:

<http://windermereurc.org.uk/a-message-from-artpeace-in-zim.../> explaining the effect closure would have on the cooperative whilst sympathising with staff who could lose their jobs. Some members of their families also wanted to make their feelings known (left). Windermere Staff Debbie and Lucy (below) were touched by the video and in turn sent a short video of appreciation to Artpeace.



A decision on the Centre's future will be made in May. See posts on Windermere URC Facebook.

**NASTY SURPRISE!** Norma, Fortune's wife let out a shriek of horror one morning as she stepped



out of bed and almost onto a big Duwo spider which has a painful bite. Fortune raced to the rescue but before disposing of the insect, took a photo to show readers! Right: home for the family of four.



**MUSICAL VISITOR:** Mike Masedza stated: 'I had a surprise visit recently from

Michael Sithole (20) - in the blue shirt below - a talented young singer looking for people able to assist him in his music career. His stage name is Micky Vibes - an amazing young artist! He is partially blind, and has broken his spectacles so has limited vision. Willom Tight, an established



musician brought him along.' Micky sent me his rendition of 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' via a short video clip taken on Mike's mobile. A contribution towards the repair of his spectacles has now been sent. Above right - the latest arrivals from another new excellent artist, Simba Gutu, are now on display in the Southwark Cathedral shop.

**Johnston Simpson**