

# ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

**A GOOD MONTH!** It's not often I open with this sentence but October has had all the artists smiling! They enjoyed decent sales from the Southwark Cathedral Shop coupled with St Andrew's share of their Harvest Collection. This was followed by a decision made by Marlow URC Elders and quickly approved by their church meeting to award ArtPeace a substantial sum of money from church funds to cover seed and various fertiliser compounds for the coming season.



We moved quickly and money transferred to me on a Tuesday resulted in the entire cooperative visiting a store in Harare to buy the goods and arrange delivery to their homes *two days later!* On Sunday, exactly one week after Marlow's church meeting, the congregation received joyful feedback via lots of photos plus a video of thanks from ArtPeace projected onto a screen in their sanctuary. Photos above left: Christine Ngoro's face says it all. Right: The group loading a lorry for deliveries to their homes. The artists are now busy preparing their fields before the hoped-for rain. A decent crop of maize could feed several hundred people for many months. Artist Fortune said: 'Everyone was so happy some with tears of joy.' There is more good news in that Marlow's splendid donation should also cover an expedition to the mines in Nyanga (Eastern Highlands) to procure 12 tonnes of raw beautiful green and yellow leopard rock from mines in the hills with another interesting story in the making!



**THE DIFFERENCE A SALE MAKES!** A friend from my old employer Unilever recently bought this lovely hippo made by artist Lovemore James. She was touched on learning that her purchase would send Angeline (right), Lovemore's seven-year-old daughter back to school as she has been at home all this school year due to the family's inability to pay her school fees.





**THE GOOD NEWS CONTINUES:** Last month's article mentioned jewellery made by sisters Salome and Christine – both single mums. Janet Thompson, Toller URC's (Kettering) church secretary was so impressed that they requested I send this jewellery to sell at their forthcoming Moderator's visit which usually guarantees a big congregation. Robert Purcell visiting his son in



Zimbabwe went the extra mile and kindly brought more jewellery and stone carvings home with him – without all these marvellous people none of this would happen!

### **SECOND LONDON SALES POINT:**

The URC'S splendid refurbished offices In Tavistock Place now feature a lovely LED lit glass cabinet with two shelves allocated to ArtPeace crafts. Staff Jane Baird and Helen Munt (right) proved enthusiastic and extremely helpful and are hopeful of purchases by staff/visitors – some from overseas. ArtPeace are thrilled and indeed blessed with two sales points in London.



**ST ANDREW'S VISITORS:** On October 20<sup>th</sup>, I was delighted to welcome Pastor Johane Vambe and his wife Merci from Alpha and Omega Ministries International who use Maidenhead URC's facilities on a Sunday afternoon. Also, Sheila Perkins from Maidenhead URC – the leader of their



mission and outreach programme and last but not least, two very good friends – Elders Martin Beck and Helen Rider - Smith, from Marlow URC. It was a chance meeting many years ago at a Wessex Synod gathering in Camberley with Stephen, Helen's late husband which led to Marlow's tremendous involvement with ArtPeace. Martin Beck organised this meeting as his colleagues had expressed a keen interest on how we manage to have such

a fulfilling hand - on project with the cooperative. All parties left enthused so let us see what develops. As I said, October has proved a tremendous month and all the artists and their families are excited.

**Johnston Simpson**