

STONE CARVINGS FROM SILVEIRA HOUSE, HARARE

A PRACTICAL WAY OF HELPING IMPOVERISHED ZIMBABWEANS



For over 10 years, St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Walton on Thames has



supported **Artpeace**, a cooperative of highly talented stone sculptors (photo left showing some of the group) with whom they are in contact most days. Made homeless by government agencies, these artists lost everything but are now able to continue their work in safety at Silveira House, a charity run by the Jesuits. St Andrew's select the best small sculptures which are brought to the UK by couriers as part of their luggage. Proceeds from various sales are sent quickly, direct and in full to the artists; virtually the sole income from their art going a long way towards supporting their extended

families of around 400 people, many of whom live in rural areas. St Andrew's support has spread to other craftsmen including painters; jewellery makers from Silveira House, baskets and wooden carvings from the BaTonga tribe near Kariba and batiks made by the L'Arche community in Harare. Exhibitions have been mounted at Southwark Cathedral, Marlow, Crawley, Horsham, Kettering, Loughborough, Cambridge and Kingston upon Thames URCs' to great acclaim. There is a display at The URC Windermere Centre. Money raised covers food, hospital and school fees plus raw stone for these poor people living in high density suburbs. It gives them hope and maintains their dignity. Please click on **Artpeace Zimbabwe** under the **Main Menu** for regular updates and unique photos of life in



Zimbabwe. Contact: jbsimpson@hotmail.co.uk for further details as small pieces of the artists' work (samples left) are usually available for purchase. Zimbabweans are amongst the world's top sculptors and some of our artists have served apprenticeships with famous first generation masters. Their art carved in various stones entirely

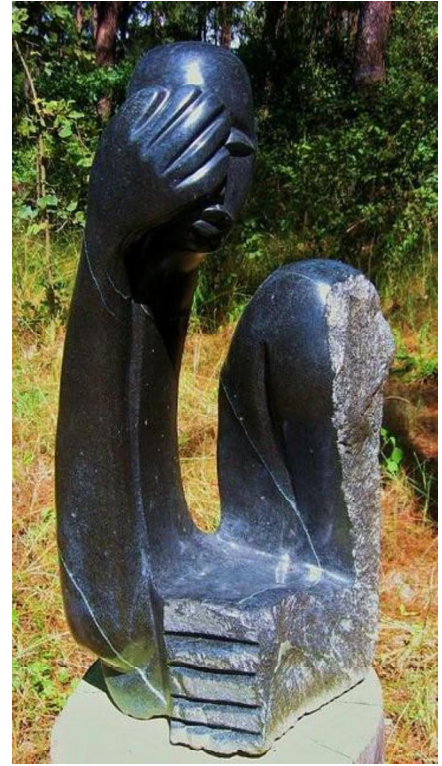
by hand using simple tools, is fit to grace any gallery.



*'Harvest' by Michael Mukolosi
commissioned by St Andrew's*



*'Tidying Bird' by Godfrey William
sold to The Weybridge Society*



*'Homeless' by Coster Balakasi
sold to Beulah URC*



*'Christ Arising' in Lemon opalstone by Andrew Mabanji on display
in St Andrew's porch -an appreciation by Bridget Micklem:
'Andrew's Christ stands in a moment of suspense, with arms
outstretched in a gesture like crucifixion but now embracing and going
beyond it. The figure does not gaze at us: his eyes are downcast, as
if he is concentrating in drawing together the energy now flowing
through his resurrection body and saying farewell to his suffering.
This is Christ the suffering servant emerging again into the light.'*

The artists try to help others even worse off than themselves by alerting St Andrew's. Example: 9 year old Fradreck spent nights in a wrecked car with a torn plastic sheet for a blanket. His dearest wish was to go to school and quote: *'be like other boys.'* Within 10 days of this alert, a delighted little boy was in school. His sister Catherine was in a similar situation as their widowed mother was so poor. Donations covered both children's school uniforms, fees & notepads. Photos, left to right: Fradreck settles down for the night in a wrecked car – making friends with classmates at school. A beaming Catherine all set to leave for school with brother Fradreck.

