

ARTPEACE AND FRIENDS

PULLING TOGETHER! I am delighted to report lots of good news this month thanks to responses from last month's tale of woe. Donations arrived from Scotland, Wales (2), Fleetwood,



Kettering, Toddington and nearer to home, Claygate and Weybridge. This gave the artists a huge boost and lifted morale. They were overjoyed and expressed their appreciation via a video which can be seen on our website or via the link shown later in this article. The money was put to good use. EG: Readers will recall Tapiwa the 12-year-old orphan (left) who largely feeds for himself. Tapiwa was given 35 dollars by artist Ignatious. Tapiwa (right) holding donation,



used his donation to buy 40kgs of maize, 2 ltrs cooking oil, sugar, rice, salt, flour, 2x500g beans, matches, 250g powder milk leaving him with 5US dollars to pay for grinding maize into meal.

DIVERSIFICATION: Artists like Fortune (below left) have used their money to diversify into chickens and rabbits to provide protein for their families and sell surplus eggs and meat. Our donations also helped Fortune's neighbour Maria (below) a single mother with four children including twins. Her husband was a diabetic and died from Covid. Fortune said she was over the



moon with her 60US\$ donation and shed tears of joy at being able to buy sugar, flour, mealie meal, candles, firewood, second-hand shoes and clothes – even a treat of sweets for the children!

COMMUNICATIONS: Many of the artists' old mobiles are broken so 8 eBay buys + Poundland reading spectacles will be winging their way to Artpeace next month thanks to Catherine, a splendid Zimbabwean nurse from Bristol visiting family – without mobiles, I could not operate.

SHARING: Our service via WhatsApp audio/mobile continues to be transmitted to Artpeace who are unable to attend their own services unless double vaccinated. This 'pulling together' on many fronts from kind people makes a real difference to the quality of our friends' lives. They were also uplifted by supportive words from Rev. Michael Hodgson & visiting minister Rev. Derek Wensley.

OUR SUPPORT helps people in numerous ways. Struggling artist Herbert has been able to pay off school fee arrears enabling his son Elias (left) to re-join his classmates. Herbert (far right) is still recovering from a savage attack and hospitalisation when his mobile was stolen so was grateful for our help. Also, Edinah (right), who used to work in Silveira House's craft shop, was desperate to buy blood pressure tablets. She said: *'The tablets are a life saver therefore I am so very happy – may God bless whoever who helped me.'* Sometimes light seems to shine through little cracks more effectively than an explosive blaze.



SALES: Artpeace also enjoyed an excellent month of sales courtesy of the Southwark Cathedral



shop. The congregation was encouraged by Dean Andrew Nunn (left) to buy sculptures and they responded wholeheartedly. On receipt of the recent sales money and general donations, Artpeace responded with a heartfelt thank you on video which was forwarded



immediately to each donor and Southwark. Andrew, never one to let the grass grow under his feet, arranged for the video to be displayed on their comprehensive website accompanied by a supportive write up. Shop manager Jon Dollin's actioned this quickly – see link:

<https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/about-us/news/practical-help-to-friends-in-zimbabwe/>

MARLOW URC COME UP TRUMPS AGAIN! Last but certainly not least, at their recent quarterly church meeting Marlow URC's congregation once more agreed to finance the entire cooperative's seed and fertiliser requirements. This is no mean achievement in these difficult financial times. The artists were overjoyed and mightily relieved. I sought CAFOD'S Regional director's help as she has access to professional government agricultural advice re the most suitable time for sowing. **BONUS!** - **St Andrew's URC** Harvest collection for Artpeace will be used to buy chemicals and hire sprayers to prevent attack by the dreaded army worm which can devastate a field in a week. Below left, artist Shingi and his wife Beauty prepare their field for the next sowing. Below right, artist Lizeni with last year's bumper crop. **Johnston Simpson**

