

Welcome to this exhibition organised by ALMA as part of the 2010 City of London Festival.

ALMA* is the Diocese of London's link with the Anglican Church in Angola and Mozambique, where Portuguese is the main language. Our partner churches work in very different contexts from our own: each has experienced post colonial war followed by civil war coupled with extreme poverty. Yet they have played significant parts in their countries' transition to peace, and the Swords into Ploughshares project is now world renowned.

Bishop Dinis Sengulane (Bishop of Lebombo, Southern Mozambique) believed the quantity of weapons in private hands at the end of the civil war in 1992 was the biggest threat to future peace. Alongside the Christian Council of Mozambique and Christian Aid, a project was set up encouraging people to hand in their arms and in exchange receive tools to help with the return to civilian life - often gardening tools, ploughs, sewing machines and bicycles. To date 700,000 weapons have been handed in and the sculptures made from the de-commissioned weapons have become world renowned. Today the project has a new focus 'Weapons for Water' where communities are rewarded with wells for their weapons.

Two of the most famous sculptures - Kester's 'Throne of Weapons' and 'The Tree of Life' - are in the British Museum. In this exhibition there is a display showing the making of the 'Tree of Life' and the opportunity to see three other sculptures:

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| 'The Pianist' by Adelino Mathe | (made 1998-2000) |
| 'The Bird of Peace' | (made 1998-2000) |
| 'Music Man' by Kester | (made in 2006) |

Each is a powerful statement about the possibility of peace triumphing over the violence, of life over death and the endurance of the human spirit.

Other exhibits include:

- A display about the ALMA partnership
- The first showing of the ALMA banner made by Ann Flett.
- Christian Aid's 'Children in Conflict' travelling exhibition
This shows John Keane's paintings from Angola in 2007 with the stories of his subjects, and charts Angola's emergence from a 40 year civil war since 2002.
- A display from the Mothers' Union who have 4 million members worldwide, particularly in Africa. London Mother's Union is twinned with Angola.
- USPG's photo and information display from their work in Mozambique.

*ALMA - Angola London Mozambique Association. See www.almalink.org . For more information contact Sheenagh Burrell, ALMA Communications Officer at almacomms@london.anglican.org