



JBMS

John Bradburne Memorial Society



JBMS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

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WELCOME

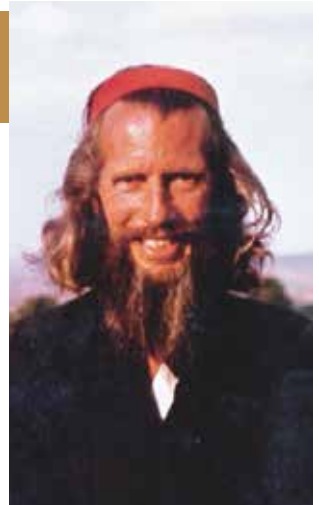
Welcome to the Winter Newsletter from the John Bradburne Memorial Society.

As the winter season settles in, we are reminded of John Bradburne's spirit of resilience, compassion, and love that shines even in the coldest months.

In this edition, we have stories from Mutemwa, news on upcoming events, and reflections on how John's poetry continues to inspire. Whether you are new to the Society or have been a long-time supporter, we are grateful for your ongoing dedication to keeping John's memory alive.

With best wishes and thanks,

The John Bradburne Memorial Society



JOHN BRADBURNE POSTHUMOUSLY DECLARED ZIMBABWEAN NATIONAL HERO FOR HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

John Bradburne, has been officially recognised by the Zimbabwean government as a **National Hero**, a prestigious honour typically reserved for individuals who have made significant contributions to the country's history and society. This recognition comes as a reflection of Bradburne's extraordinary life of service, particularly during the time he spent in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia), where he cared for leprosy patients at the Mutemwa Leprosy Settlement from 1969 until his death in 1979.

Bradburne's commitment to the people living with leprosy, despite living in poverty and under difficult conditions, earned him widespread admiration in Zimbabwe. He refused to abandon the patients even when the Rhodesian civil war made the situation perilous. Tragically, in 1979, he was abducted and murdered by guerrilla forces during the conflict. His death marked him as a martyr in the eyes of many Zimbabweans and Christians around the world.

By honouring him as a National Hero, Zimbabwe recognises his selflessness, humanitarian spirit,

and the lasting impact he made on the lives of the marginalised and forgotten members of society. This recognition also highlights the country's appreciation of individuals who, despite not being Zimbabwean by birth, dedicated their lives to the welfare of its people.

John Bradburne's legacy continues to inspire many, with a growing international following of those advocating for his sainthood in the Catholic Church. His National Hero status in Zimbabwe further cements his place in the nation's history as a figure of profound compassion and courage.

2 POSTHUMOUS NATIONAL HEROES DECLARATION			
NAME OF THE DECEASED	DATE OF DEATH	DECLARATION DATE	PROVINCE
Cdr Brig. Gen. Rtd John Mbedzi	13 June 1987	28 August	Harare
Cdr Dr. Eusebius Sotiri	15 Oct 1975		
Cdr Brig. Gen. Gibbs Rachana	19 Apr 2000		
Cdr Jason Jek	12 Nov 1982	24 Sept 2024	Manicalaya
Cdr John Bradburne	5 Sept 1979	24 Sept 2024	Manicalaya
TOTAL	5		



NEWS FROM MUTEMWA

BY AQUINAMARY GURI

The Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre currently provides accommodation and care for 26 residents, comprised of 11 post-leprosy patients, 12 individuals with physical disabilities, and 3 destitute individuals. These residents receive ongoing medical support from a dedicated clinic staffed by two nurses. The medical team is overseen by the Mutoko District Hospital, led by Dr. Mangwiro, the District Medical Officer (DMO), who conducts biweekly visits to ensure proper care and management. In addition, Dr. Mandizvidza, a volunteer physician, supplements this support by visiting the centre monthly, offering specialist care to residents.

Mutemwa has several agricultural projects underway aimed at fostering self-sufficiency and generating income to support daily operations. These initiatives include the following:

1. Poultry Farming:

Chickens: This year, the centre received 500 new layer chickens from JBMS. These birds will help provide a steady supply of eggs for consumption and sale. The existing 322 older layers, nearing the end of their productive laying period, will be sold to generate funds for feed costs and other operational needs related to the new flock.

2. Piggery:

The piggery project includes a small but active herd of 10 sows, 1 gilt (a young female pig), 1 boar, and 30 porkers ready for slaughter. The pigs provide meat for the residents and surplus animals are sold to generate additional income. This project is an important part of the centre's aim to increase self-sufficiency while offering nutritional support to the residents.

3. Beekeeping:

The centre also engages in beekeeping, with a small-scale honey production project. In April 2024, Mutemwa harvested a quarter bucket of honey, and another harvest is expected in November 2024. While this project is still developing, it contributes additional income and diversification to the centre's agricultural activities.

4. Garden and Horticulture:

Mutemwa maintains a productive garden that yields a variety of vegetables, including leafy greens, tomatoes, okra, and onions. These crops help provide nutritious meals for the residents, while surplus produce is sold to generate revenue. The garden serves as a vital source of fresh food and plays a key role in reducing dependency on external food sources.



5. Farming:

The centre recently harvested 13 bags of maize, though this yield is insufficient to meet the needs of the residents. Fortunately, Mutemwa still has reserves of 3 tonnes of maize to rely on. Unfortunately, drought conditions have severely impacted the overall crop production, preventing the harvest of any other crops. This highlights the ongoing challenge Mutemwa faces in achieving full agricultural self-sufficiency due to environmental factors, notably lack of water.

Despite facing challenges such as drought and limited infrastructure, the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre remains dedicated to the well-being of its residents. The centre's various agricultural projects not only support the daily needs of the residents

but also provide an avenue for income generation, making strides toward greater self-sufficiency. These efforts reflect Mutemwa's commitment to maintaining a sustainable environment where both healthcare and community support go hand in hand.



SPECIAL MASS AT WESTMINSTER: A CELEBRATION OF JOHN BRADBURNE'S LIFE & CAUSE

On September 13, 2025, we invite all supporters of John Bradburne to join us for a Special Mass at Westminster Cathedral to celebrate his life and pray for his cause for Beatification. This is a wonderful opportunity to honour John's legacy and reflect on the profound impact he has had on so many lives.

Following the Mass, we will continue the celebrations with refreshments, engaging talks, and uplifting music. Attendees will also have the chance to view some of John's relics, making this a truly special occasion.

To book your tickets for the event please go to www.johnbradburne.com and look under News & Events. We look forward to celebrating with you.



A BURNING QUESTION

BY PROFESSOR DAVID CRYSTAL



This article is based on a talk given at Buckfast Abbey in June 2023 to celebrate the life of John Bradburne.

If you've dipped into John's poetry, you can't fail to be impressed by its quantity as well as its quality. 175 thousand lines.

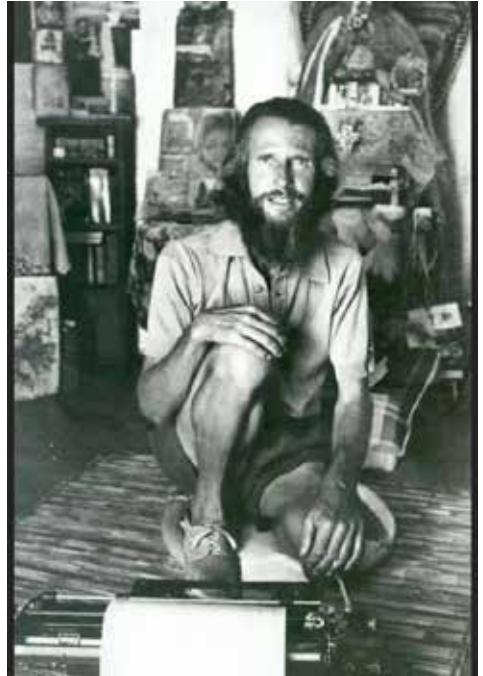
In 1951, he wrote in a diary: 'That spring at Parkminster [1950], I waxed once more poetic - Dom Andrew very aptly described my poems as "vanity of Vanities like a tap that just goes on dripping"!'. Then in 1953 he stayed in a hut in the garden of the house of Adam and Pamela Curle near Ottery. Adam wrote, in a letter: 'He sang a lot and wrote volumes of poetry'.

But if you look at the poems in the online database (www.johnbradburnepoems.com) you'll get a surprise. There are only four from 1951, nine from 1952, three from 1953, and none at all from 1954. Where have all the others gone?

In 1961 we get a clue. He's now caretaker of Hare Street House in Hertfordshire, the country home of the Archbishop of Westminster, and in March he sends some poems to his mother and writes: 'This is the time of year when I tend to burn everything I have written, so these will be safe!'

He means it. In 1964 he writes again to his mother: 'Would you please do me a great favour my dear & burn All the contents of The Mafeking Brief Case except the two thick hard covered exercise books (foolscap size) and the Bird cover only of each of the

Books you gave me. Be ruthless, and unenquiring. ... I am writing a lot out here. Writing & Selecting & Destroying & Resurrecting!'



A decade later, in April 1977, now at Mutemwa, he is even stronger in his words: 'I have a deep desire to burn everything I have written but am not sure where the desire comes from. I HATE possessions. Wherever one goes they accrue, and most of mine are my own fault, e.g. Poems! And two months later, he writes to his friend Stephen King: 'Herewith some more nonsense in verse, since you are appreciative of my stuff. I often long to burn all 1000 pages & their duplicates, but still they remain. I have found in the past that destroying everything for the sake of simplicity leads inevitably to building up twice as much clobber again as soon as possible.'

Fortunately, the people he sent poems to didn't always destroy them, and just last year a new

example was discovered. It was a poem prompted by the death of Father Wim Smulders, the parish priest of St Peter's, Mbare, killed in a car accident on 28 December 1975. John wrote this insightful poem the very next day. He called it 'A Ballade of a Bereavement'

Their deaths whom God loved best bereave us most

While those who loved Him least are fast forgot;

Brave spirits, led by Christ our saving Host,

Precede and speed us on to heaven's plot

And, as we stand so sadly at the spot

That shall itself stand sentry till the Trump

Over the frame, acclaim, desponding not:

Will Smolders bowled the demon, middle-stump!

The opening lines are among his best, I think. But here's the point: he wrote an accompanying letter

to the Mission Superior, Fr Patrick McNamara: 'The above unworthy Ballade is the only copy & there remains no original, so you could safely consign it to the flames.' Happily, as you see, he didn't.

We are left with some 5000 surviving poems in the online database. My guess is that at least that number again were at various times reduced to ashes. He's by no means the only poet to do this: Gerard Manley Hopkins was another who burned his early poems. So we must be thankful for what we have. And we can now firmly give the lie to what he wrote at the end of 'To the Lodestar' in 1974:

My age is fifty-three, my lines are many

And almost all of them not read by any!

Not any more, John. Not any more.

UNVEILING THE NEW ICON OF THE CUMBRIAN SAINTS



Martin Earle, a renowned British iconographer, has beautifully captured the spiritual essence of the Cumbrian Saints in a series of altar pieces now displayed in Christ the Good Shepherd church in Workington. These icons, painted with meticulous attention to traditional iconographic techniques, honour the region's rich Christian heritage by depicting the local saints whose lives were integral to the spread of Christianity in Cumbria. Among these figures stands the Servant of God, John Bradburne, a modern-day martyr and missionary, whom Martin Earle has chosen to include alongside the historical saints of Cumbria, symbolising Bradburne's rising significance within the Church.



UPDATING THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects are the purposes of the Society and form the basis upon which it operates.

Over the past 30 years the John Bradburne Memorial Society has supported the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe and continues the legacy of John Bradburne who had been instrumental in its operation prior to his tragic murder in 1979.

In particular as you will be aware the Society has provided funding for the support of the residents at Mutemwa in various ways.

With this in mind the trustees are considering revising the objects of the Society to ensure that they continue to be relevant and up to date.

Currently the objects are as follows:-

To relieve people in the area of Mutemwa, Zimbabwe, who are suffering sickness, hardship and distress from leprosy or other causes, through the provision of supplementary food, medicines, medical care, clothing, shelter, with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The trustees are considering the following changes:-

1. The inclusion of specific reference to John Bradburne and the continuation of his work, and the spreading of awareness of John Bradburne's life as an encouragement to others to act in a similar way. This will take into account the beatification process which is underway.
2. Referring more generically to the way in which support is provided to the people of Mutemwa so that it can reflect all of the ways in which the support is and can be provided.
3. To expressly refer to their physical and spiritual welfare.

The trustees are advised that there are legal considerations which apply when seeking an amendment to the objects – put simply it is not possible to change the objects unless certain criteria are satisfied and the Charity Commission agree.



In essence the relevant factors are:-

1. Having regard to the purposes when the Society was established; and
2. Making sure that the proposed purposes are similar to the purposes being altered; and
3. The need to ensure that the proposed purposes are suitable and effective having regard to current social and economic conditions and thus reflective of what the Society will be doing going forward.

Bearing this in mind the proposal is to place emphasis on John Bradburne, which inherently underpinned the formation of the Society, and also to have regard to the many ways in which the Society can support the residents at Mutemwa in relation to their various needs.

It will be necessary to obtain the consent of the Charity Commission to any changes and inevitably there may be some negotiation required.

The trustees are seeking your support to the proposals and to invite any comments which you may have so that these can be taken into account.

TEN WEEKS, TEN NARROW ESCAPES, JANUARY–MARCH 1942

BY DIDIER RANCE

During the Second World War in early 1942 young John Bradburne, 20 years old, narrowly escaped death ten times in ten weeks. And it was in the midst of these weeks that he discovered Jesus, received the decisive appeal and answered to it.

1. Slim River

In their retreat from the Japanese army, the British arrived on 7th January at the Slim River. Their troops were crushed by the Japanese and many were killed, but John's company escaped the massacre.

2. Other side of Slim River

The army company of soldiers had to cross the river by using felled tree trunks, but a number of soldiers slipped from the trunks, were carried away by the current and drowned. John survived. Soon after the Japanese crossed the river, so John's army company escapes ruin by throwing themselves into the inhospitable jungle.

3. Through the Jungle

John and James Hart, his captain, are now alone in the jungle. Five weeks of permanent danger: no food, at the mercy of predatory wild animals, reptiles and mosquitoes, and the Japanese had warned the villagers that any aid granted to fugitives, or failure to denounce them, was punishable by death. The majority of the British were either taken prisoner or died after long wanderings in the jungle.



4. Cerebral malaria

In the jungle, John soon began to shiver, and suffer from nausea and headaches, symptoms of malaria. He had contracted cerebral malaria, the most virulent form, often fatal if not treated rapidly. John began to lag behind his captain who suffered also from malaria but in a milder form and decided not to abandon his companion. They kept going as best they could, John weakening all the time and sometimes becoming delirious, Captain Hart helping him to walk as he could.

In the midst : vision and conversion

It was at the apex of distress that late one evening, John looked up at the night sky and experienced some sort of vision. He later writes about this experience in Ut Unum Sint:

*And I remember walking to the sea,
A full month later (all was late to me),
Beneath the stars of a Malayan night
Considering the Magi and their Light.*

*Above the rubber-forest shone a star,
The brightest Westward, beckoning afar;
It seemed to me a sign from Christ the King,
Who out of chaos joy and peace doth bring.*

He also writes : 'I felt for the first time that there is something beyond us – if only we could get in touch with it.' This "beyond" was linked to the joy and the peace that Christ can bring to the afflicted soul.

5. Shipwreck

After five weeks of surviving the jungle, the two men arrived at the sea, not far from Kuala Selangor. Captain Hart came upon a sampan (boat), requisitioned it from its owner, put John aboard and set out for Sumatra, more than sixty miles to the west. But one typhoon suddenly washed the frail ship on the Malayan coast, where it sank. They were "washed ashore in true Pauline style" as John will write, astonished to still be alive.

6. At sea

The two men resumed their wandering on the beach, searching for another boat. They eventually came across a group of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as bedraggled as themselves after their ordeal in the jungle. Together they found another sampan, and forced at gun point to take the sea westwards. On the sampan, John suffered more and more from “sun stroke and a terrible malaria”. He drifted in and out of consciousness.



7. Sumatra Hospitals

The sampan eventually arrived in Sumatra, near Bagan Siapi Api, a small fishing port. The group made straight for the nearest small hospital in the little town to secure medical care for John. After examining him, the doctors were so concerned that, to give him a chance to be saved, they arranged for him to be transferred to Medan, more than 400 kilometres south, with Captain Hart accompanying him. But the same day, the Japanese invaded Sumatra, destroying the Dutch Fleet and the harbour facilities on the Eastern Coast.

John must have arrived in Medan on the 17th of February. He was cared for by Dutch doctors. Would he survive? He was becoming more and more delirious. Watched and attended attentively by the hospital staff, he lost consciousness and for three days hovered in a coma between life and death. A further religious experience occurred at this time:

At the time I went out of my mind and for three days I was locked up. When I was at the bottom of my insanity, I had a vision of Our Lady. This and my newly found faith led me out of the Abyss.

When he finally came round it was with a firm conviction of what would shape his future life, a single-minded search for God:

*I know not what disease I had
But in Sumatra I went mad
(With sunstroke and malaria
Maybe) - O blest hysteria!*

*O blest delirium that told
Me clearly that to find The God
Was all I really wanted! odd.
But thus He called me to His Fold. (Ut Unum Sint)*

8. Padang

John was soon sent to the port of Padang, as the military situation on Sumatra Island deteriorated. Here one of the few ships to have survived the destruction, had already been overrun and filled with hundreds of evacuated British. Captain Hart arrived, carrying on his shoulder his poor companion. The ship was on the point to leave and had just begun to raise the gangplank. Captain Hart got a grip on it, and, just as the gangplank was being lifted, shoved John, slung over his shoulder, on board, and jumped on managing to fight his way on board just as the boat moved away.

9. On Tenedos

The boat made its way out to sea, heading for Ceylon. But the Japanese were the masters of the air and could sink any ship, military or civilian, at any moment. Four days of anxiety for the crew and the host of passengers. The boat managed to elude Japanese air surveillance and docked at Colombo on the 5th March. Shortly afterwards the ship was bombed by the Japanese air force and sunk, with the loss of thirty-three lives.

10. On Chitral

Another boat took them towards Bombay. The Japanese were active in the air over the Indian Ocean, but the boat escaped bombing luckily. The Chitral arrived in Bombay the 16th March. John sent a telegram to his parents: “I am safe and well”.



FR COLIN CARR'S 83KM WALK: STEPPING FORWARD FOR MUTEMWA'S CHILDREN



Fr Colin Carr, who turned 83 on October 8th, undertook a remarkable challenge to walk 83km in celebration of his 83rd birthday. His goal was to raise funds for the children living at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre, helping to send them to school. Over eight days, Fr Colin completed the impressive feat, walking through the streets of Cambridge. Along the way, he felt the presence of John Bradburne, carrying a piece of John's Franciscan habit with him as a source of inspiration. His efforts raised an incredible £3,773. Both Fr Colin and the John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS) express their heartfelt thanks for the generous support and donations received, which will make a meaningful difference to the children of Mutemwa.

BRIGHT FUTURES FOR THE CHILDREN OF MUTEMWA

Thanks to your generous donations, the John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS) is thrilled to announce that we have been able to pay for the school fees of both the residents' children and the children of staff who live at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre for the whole academic year. This support will make a huge difference in their lives, giving them access to education and a future much brighter than they had hoped for. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity, which is helping to transform these children's lives and give them the opportunities they deserve. Thank you!



NEW VEHICLE AT MUTEMWA: A GENEROUS GIFT FROM JBMS DONORS

Thanks to the generous donations from JBMS donors, we are thrilled to announce the purchase of a brand-new vehicle that will greatly enhance our operations! This addition will allow those living at Mutemwa to be better served. Whether it's for daily errands or transporting patients to hospital, this vehicle will make a significant difference. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our donors, whose kindness has made this improvement possible. Thank you.



45TH MEMORIAL CELEBRATIONS OF JOHN BRADBURNE AT MUTEMWA, 7TH-8TH SEPTEMBER 2024 BY ANGUS MARTENS

On the 1st of September, I began my journey from Harare to Mutemwa in anticipation of John Bradburne's 45th memorial celebrations. Arriving early allowed me some peaceful time for quiet prayer on the actual Memorial Day, the 5th of September, which I spent in the Tin Hut, enjoying the tranquillity of Mutemwa before the influx of pilgrims over the weekend.



By Friday, buses and cars filled with visitors began arriving as final preparations were being made. Jacaranda Avenue was bustling as the track and bicycle race route was being finalised. Mr. Kumpara and his team did a remarkable job sprucing up the centre in preparation for the events.

Father Salicio, OFM, and the Administrator, Aquinamary had been tirelessly working to ensure everything was ready for the celebrations. Mother Stella, who takes care of the altar every year, once again prepared it with great care, positioning the large, hand-painted portrait of John Bradburne for all to see, surrounded by flowers.

Large tents were erected to provide shade for the pilgrims, as the weather was exceptionally hot this year.



Angus and Coletta from Mutemwa

I was fortunate to be invited by Mother Jean to stay at the House of Saint Mother Teresa at the Mother of Peace community, a beautiful thatched building that warmly welcomed everyone who arrived. Around midday, I returned to the community, just before the heat became unbearable. Shortly after, a large bus carrying young students from Saint Michael's Mission arrived, and they gathered under a shady tree. One of the ladies from the Mother of Peace community gave them a brief history of the orphanage, which cares for orphaned and abandoned children.

Though I had intended to return to the Tin Hut, the boys from Saint Michael's Mission asked me to speak about John Bradburne, as many of them knew little about him. I humbly accepted the request and shared John's story, using a small booklet as a guide and pausing frequently for questions.

To my surprise, the conversation continued for over two hours. The young boys were deeply engaged, eager to learn more about John's life and work. There were over 150 boys of varying ages, and I could sense the stirrings of religious interest

in some of them. I spoke to them about how John had tried multiple times to join a monastic order but had not succeeded, ultimately finding his “cloister” in the Tin Hut of Mutemwa. I challenged them to pray and search for their own vocations, even suggesting the possibility of founding a local monastic order in Mutemwa, inspired by John’s memory and legacy.

Later that afternoon, as the crowds gathered at the Tin Hut, the focus shifted to the memorial’s central theme. Talks were given on how John’s life serves as an example in today’s materialistic world, where the pursuit of money and greed can damage our relationship with God and others. Speakers also touched on the creeping influence of jealousy and hatred in the spiritual lives of people, even within the Church.

The discussions continued late into the night, punctuated by joyful singing that lifted everyone’s spirits, reminding us all of the deep sense of peace and joy that comes from being back at Mutemwa.

Saturday morning saw the start of the races, with various participants preparing for the events. One of the most popular races was the women’s race, which included both young and elderly women, some even running with walking sticks! Their enthusiasm was contagious, and the event was filled with laughter and excitement.

Other races, part of the fundraising efforts, were more demanding, with stronger participants taking on the challenge. The day was filled with fun and camaraderie, and all who took part enjoyed the spirit of the games and the effort they required.



CAUSE PROGRESS UPDATE BY DR ENRICO SOLINAS

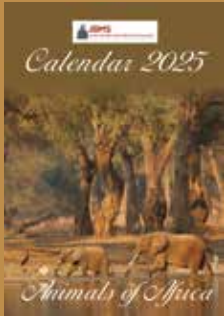
Dear friends of JBMS. Here I am once again as Postulator to update you on the news regarding the cause of canonisation of the Servant of God John Bradburne. A few days ago I had a video call with the Vice Postulator Fr Moyo who told me that, to date, 15 witnesses who knew John personally have been interviewed. Through Kate, who I take this opportunity to publicly thank for the excellent work she is doing, I have arranged to present another 15 witnesses who will be interviewed as soon as possible either in Zimbabwe or in the UK. Personally, I hope that 2025 will be a “special” year for John’s cause and that the jubilee announced by Pope Francis will coincide with the possible end of the diocesan information process. We pray that this event can be realised and, as always, we can move forward with the projects that JBMS is carrying out with relevance to the cause and the work that John began in the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre. I take this opportunity to ask you all for a prayer that God, through John’s intercession, may fill us with many Graces.

Best Wishes

Enrico Solinas, Postulator



NEW JBMS MERCHANDISE



Introducing the New JBMS 2025 Calendar: Celebrating the Animals of Africa, Featuring Stunning Photography by David Fettes

We are excited to announce that this year's JBMS calendar showcases the incredible animals of Africa through the lens of David Fettes, a passionate photographer who travels the world capturing the beauty of wildlife. David has a particular love for Zimbabwe, which is reflected in the breathtaking images featured in the calendar.

The stunning photographs are paired with the inspiring extracts of John Bradburne's poetry, carefully selected by David Crystal.

At an affordable price of £12.95 plus £3.25 p&p, this A4 calendar makes the perfect gift for Christmas. Every purchase contributes to the John Bradburne Memorial Society's mission, helping us continue to support the residents of the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre.

New JBMS Christmas Cards: Mother and Child

This year, we are excited to introduce our beautiful Mother and Child Christmas cards, specially designed by the talented John Bateson. Each card features a stunning depiction of the Mother and Child set against the backdrop of Mutemwa, with Chigona Mountain and local wildlife surrounding them.

These cards are available in packs of 10 for £6.95, plus a postage fee of £2.95. With writing on the inside 'Christmas Blessing and a Peaceful New Year'. Every sale made directly supports those at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre. Celebrate the season with these unique cards that capture the spirit of Mutemwa while making a meaningful difference in the lives of its residents!

The Mother and Child picture is painted in gouache and measures 48cm square. If anyone is interested in purchasing the original painting, please contact: info@johnbradburne.com



DONATIONS PROVIDING PEACE OF MIND: SUPPORTING FUNERAL POLICIES FOR MUTEMWA RESIDENTS

A heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters! Because of your continued generosity, JBMS is able to cover the funeral policies for every single resident at Mutemwa. This means that when the time comes, their families will not need to worry about the costs of the funeral and burial. Your kindness is lifting a heavy burden from these families, allowing them to focus on honouring their loved ones without financial strain. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support, which continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those at Mutemwa.



HELP US BUILD A CHURCH IN MEMORY OF SERVANT OF GOD, JOHN BRADBURNE AT MUTEMWA



Dear JBMS Community,

We are thrilled to present a unique opportunity to further the legacy of Servant of God, John Bradburne, whose life of love and devotion to the people of Mutemwa has inspired countless lives. John's story of selfless service continues to call pilgrims from all over the world to this sacred place, and today, we invite you to join us in building a church in his honour, a place that will serve as a beacon of prayer and reflection for all who visit.

The current chapel is a modest structure housing 40 or so people, which has served well in years past, but is too small to even hold the residents of the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre, let alone the many pilgrims. This campaign aims to build a larger, welcoming church to honour John's memory, providing a space for 400+ people to gather, pray, and find peace. By contributing, you're helping create a sanctuary where John's spirit of love and service lives on, offering comfort and faith to all who come.

How You Can Help:

Donate: You can Buy a Brick to help support the construction of the church at Mutemwa for just

£25 and your brick will become a part of a wall of named supporters for all to see for years to come.

Online: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mutemwachapel>

Phone: 07979 187498

Post: JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB

Share Our Campaign: Please share to anyone you think would be interested in participating in 'a once-in-a-lifetime project to build a church for the Servant of God, John Bradburne who could be Zimbabwe's first Saint.

Offer Your Prayers: Join us in praying for the success of this endeavour to keep John's memory alive.

Together, we can build a lasting tribute to John Bradburne's extraordinary life of service. Thank you for preserving his legacy, and for helping create a place of peace, prayer and pilgrimage at Mutemwa.

With heartfelt gratitude

The John Bradburne Memorial Society

CROSS FELL PILGRIMAGE SAVE THE DATE: 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Join us for the annual Cross Fell Pilgrimage in Cumbria!

We'll begin with a Mass in St John Evangelist Church, before setting out on a scenic walk through the Cross Fell area, taking a less steep path to make the journey accessible for all. After our day of walking, we will gather in Skirwith Village Hall for refreshments, talks, and reflections.

Mark your calendars and prepare for a day of fellowship, nature, and inspiration.



LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR JOHN'S CAUSE



4th July 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am delighted to offer this brief message towards the support of John Bradburne, Servant of God, being investigated for beatification.

John was born within the Diocese of Lancaster and spent his early childhood locally. Knowledge of his life and heroic faith is deepening in this Diocese. Each year there is the walk up Cross Fell from a location close to the village of Skirwith, where he was born. Devotion to him is also growing. His restless lifestyle which ultimately led to his being received into full Communion with the Catholic Church; his remained restlessness before finding his vocation at Materosa, Zirndorfer; his profoundly simple lifestyle, and his prayers/hopes have direct relevance to so many in our age. He speaks to those whom society wishes to ignore. He speaks to those who have lost their joy in living. He speaks to those who look for a more intimate relationship with God's creation.

At a meeting some months ago, I was pleased to be able to introduce John to the St Francis Leprosy Guild who had not known about him. I believe he will give them much encouragement in their work on behalf of leprosy sufferers. His influence is growing as an Apostle for the Gospel in our times.

With my blessing,



- Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick
Bishop of Lancaster

The Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick
Bishop of Lancaster
The Bishop's Office,
The Pastoral Centre,
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Mrs K McPherson
Secretary, John Bradburne Memorial Society
PO Box 32
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SR6 0YB

Dear Mrs McPherson,

The Servant of God, John Bradburne

Thank you for your kind letter of 29 April 2024 in which you ask if I would write in support of the beatification of John Bradburne.

In this Church of Salford, John Bradburne, now Servant of God, has stood out as an example by means of his apostolic life lived in service of others and firmly rooted in prayer. His well-developed life caring for leprosy in Ethiopia and the example of his care and sacrifice for the poor, the sick and those on the margins of society are a model of Christian living that challenges the people of today's world. Pope Francis calls the Church to be missionary and to look to the peripheries and to those on the outer edges of the Church and society. John was simply known to be a generous and kind man who lived this Christian ideal.

As an example of Christian living, John Bradburne would be a beneficial model for the faithful of this Church to follow. Moreover, as someone who struggled at times and lived a life that was accompanied with suffering, he is all the more relatable. I can never stop whenever I visit parishes in the diocese and see someone describing his life as God's gift/inspired available in some churches for people to take away with them. There is clearly a following for this Servant of God in this local Church.

I happily endorse the efforts that are being made to have his holiness of life recognised by the Church universal.

With my prayers and every good wish, I am,

Yours in Christ



- John Arnold
Bishop of Salford

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Support the John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS)

In carrying forward John Bradburne's legacy, JBMS remains deeply committed to supporting the residents of the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre, offering support to the community. Together, with your support, we are helping ensure that John's legacy of kindness and unwavering dedication lives on. For more information about JBMS and how you can help, please visit www.johnbradburne.com.

To explore the rich collection of John Bradburne's poetry, visit www.johnbradburnepoems.com.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. JBMS

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