



JBMS NEWSLETTER

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DEACON CYRIL KAWISI RETIRES AS WARDEN OF MUTEMWA

On 6th March 2004, JBMS Zim, Mother of Peace and the ZLA hosted a farewell party for Deacon Cyril Kawisi, who has been the Warden and spiritual advisor to Mutemwa for the last 14 years. A huge crowd of patients, staff, friends and colleagues gathered at Mutemwa for the occasion. Cyprian Chipwere, with his flair for organizing functions, had planned the day to start at 9 a.m. with Mass under the trees. Frs Paschal and Liam officiated, assisted by the Deacon himself and the Mother of Peace children's choir. It was a beautiful and joyful occasion.

Later there was singing and dancing, warm farewell speeches, a presentation of gifts for the Deacon and a most professional lunch for such a huge crowd of well-wishers. The new young ZLA Committee is to be congratulated on their hard work and the cheerful way they waited on the crowds all day.

Deacon Kawisi has been the mainstay of religious life at

Mutemwa. To his capable hands have been entrusted the tasks of baptisms, funerals, religious instruction, counselling, the conducting of Communion services and administration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of the Sick.

As Warden, Deacon Kawisi has been in sole charge of the sourcing, ordering and transporting of food and other requirements for the patients. He has also been responsible for overseeing the medical, cleaning, maintenance and security personnel employed at the Settlement. It has been an enormous undertaking and the staff, patients and ZLA Committee are very grateful for his long and faithful service.

Mutemwa, being a place of Pilgrimage, the Deacon has often fulfilled the role of pilgrim guide, patiently relating the events of John Bradburne's life and the circumstances of his death, and finding young guides to lead the more intrepid visitors up Chigona

mountain. Latterly his duties were onerous and time consuming; often leaving no time for meals or rest periods.

Fund raising was another of Deacon's talents. He has friends throughout the country and abroad, people who trusted him and wished to support his work. He would take time to address committees and clubs who would often send substantial donations. He was meticulous about his 'thank you letters' and also in receipting and banking the donations he received from pilgrims to Mutemwa.

In April this year he was invited to attend celebrations in Bulawayo to commemorate 25 years service to the Church as a Deacon. He was a member of the very first group of married people to be ordained Deacons and a quarter of a century of loyal service is about to be acknowledged. We wish him a very happy reunion with his group and thereafter a rewarding and restful retirement on his farm.

FAREWELL AFTER A TWELVE YEAR CHAIRMANSHIP by Tony Hutchings

Twelve years ago I was asked to Chair the Zimbabwe Leprosy Association (incorporating the Friends of Mutemwa). My unbroken stint at the helm was an eventuality neither anticipated nor planned, but rather an indication of the turbulent and difficult times the country has been through during the last decade.

Change might be said to be *the one certainty of life*, but the sea changes that have engulfed Zimbabwe in the last few years of the twentieth, and

the early years of the twenty first century, have been nothing less than revolutionary – and adjusting to them has been challenging to say the least!

Two years ago the then Secretary, Diana Mitchell, brought to the attention of the Committee that the combined age of the eight sitting members was approximately 585 (or 73 years average) and that we should start recruiting 'new blood'. The Warden, Deacon Kawisi, also mentioned that he would like to be

thinking of retirement. He was persuaded to stay put for a couple of years, while a half-hearted effort was made to encourage new members onto the Committee, but we were all preoccupied with our own problems and nothing materialized.

The administration of Mutemwa has never been easy. Institutional care for 60 something aged patients who are suffering from the debilitating effects of Leprosy and other diseases or even just

from destitution and physical disability has always been a balancing act and required all sorts of diplomacy and operational skills on the part of both the staff at Mutemwa and the ZLA Committee members. However, after 2002, when the country's economy went into a downward spiral and the shortages of basic food stuffs, medicines, diesel and cash itself ensued, while inflation climbed into the 100's of percentage points, the task of keeping Mutemwa supplied and the patients cared for became a superhuman effort.

In many ways we were not up to it. Patient care and building maintenance suffered as the staff became ever more preoccupied with sourcing food and other supplies. Whereas one market outlet had been able to supply most of the dry rations, it became necessary to go from place to place in search of basics. Each buying spree was substantially more expensive than the last, often necessitating unforeseen trips to get another cheque or more cash. New plans were necessary to cope with the mountains of notes that became the order of the day and people joked about replacing their wallets with wheelbarrows. All this had a profound effect on the morale of the staff.

The Committee members were under their own kind of duress. Pauline and I and both of our sons were in the process of losing our homes and livelihoods and trying to decide the best course of action for the family. Brian and Diana Mitchell — who were the backbone of the Committee — were struggling unsuccessfully to get radiation treatment for Brian's leg in an environment where professional people, including a large percentage of the medical fraternity, were leaving the country. Travel became difficult with fuel shortages and escalating costs. We did not visit Mutemwa as we should have done and we allowed it to run for too long on 'automatic pilot'.

Having said that, the patients at Mutemwa are

considerably better off than the communities and families around them, and nothing has occurred that is not quite easily put right.

I feel that a new era has dawned at Mutemwa with a recently elected young and enthusiastic new ZLA Committee, drawn mainly from the JBMS Zim. Mrs. Margaret Chigwanda is the Chairperson. She was once the Treasurer of JBMS Zim and works as a research specialist at the University of Zimbabwe. Her Vice Chair is Mrs. Veronica Zimunhu, a trained nursing sister who owns and runs a private Maternity Clinic in Harare, the Queen of Peace Maternity Clinic. Veronica also sits on the Board of the Mother of Peace Community. Mr. Benny Nyambo is the Secretary. Benny is a Computer Science lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe. Miss Naomi Chudy is the new Treasurer and has gone to a lot of trouble to get the accounts onto satisfactory new software. Miss Nyarai Chiguvare will be the Administrative Consultant. Nyarai works for World Food Program and has been very instrumental in setting up the accounting structures necessary at Mutemwa for the procurement of WFP aid. She has spent much time at Mutemwa and has established a special feel and a very good rapport with all the patients. The other member of the Executive Committee is Ambassador Jambga, who has served on the ZLA for many years.

The Mother of Peace (MOP) Community has, I understand, also applied for WFP aid and it was felt that a closer liaison with that organization would be mutually beneficial. Two meetings were recently held with the Board of MOP, chaired by Mr. Vitalis Chadenga, with a view to finding areas of common interest where we could work together thereby saving on food procurement, staff training, selection of new nurse aides and the cost of transport. Stella and Jean Corneck are helping us by keeping a watching and helping brief on Mutemwa.

One of the concerns of the Donor Community, including WFP, is that Mutemwa should strive for self-sufficiency. We completed the new security fence around the Village and this has made a huge difference to our security. There are plans afoot to extend the vegetable garden and to introduce drip irrigation, which will help Mutemwa attain self-sufficiency in vegetables. Another project in the pipeline (again thanks to Nyarai) is a chicken unit, for which some of the bricks have already been landed on site. There are also plans for Mushroom and Bee keeping projects.

As the ability of Social Welfare in Zimbabwe to provide for our needs has declined, our Donors have increased their support. Local donations have, gratifyingly, increased over the years — this despite the straightened circumstances being experienced in Zimbabwe. Without the advice, funding and encouragement of the JBMS UK, Mutemwa would have found it difficult to survive in recent years. St. Francis Leprosy Guild has been an enormous support, and Paul Fennes (Africa help for Mutemwa) has also been a major donor to both Mutemwa and Mother of Peace. Many local firms, also, have helped us substantially over the years.

It is indeed difficult to walk away from Mutemwa after so many years of intimate contact. My wife Pauline has been associated with Mutemwa since 1974 when she used to visit John Bradburne every week and I was drawn in gradually to this 30 year 'relationship' with all its uplifting consolations and horrible desolations! But it is with confidence in our new Committee, and certainly with a feeling of relief — also with a certain amount of sadness and nostalgia, that I resign my very personal commitment to Mutemwa and wish the new Committee all the very best in the work it plans for Mutemwa in the future.

WELCOME TO TWO NEW TRUSTEES

We are very happy to introduce two new Trustees on the JBMS Committee, Lawrence Vambe, MBE, and Christine Pratt.

Christine gives an account of her three month stay at Mutemwa recently, and we are very grateful to her for all that she has done to achieve so much under very difficult circumstances.

INSIDE MUTEMWA

I have recently spent three months in Zimbabwe staying at Mutemwa as a volunteer. I was there as the Deacon retired and was able to welcome the new Administrator Auxillia Chiviya when she started work at the end of April. My background is that of a nurse so naturally the Health Care side of things is where I find myself most at home. It may be of interest to the readers of the JBMS newsletter to hear more about that aspect of the settlement and to introduce some of the residents and the staff!

Of the 54 residents living at Mutemwa, 28 are old sufferers of leprosy, 11 disabled and 15 elderly destitute. The majority are able to cook, clean, wash, launder and generally look after themselves and they live in the so-called "cluster" homes that consist of a kitchen with an open fire for the cooking and a second room as the bedroom. Each home has an outside cold water tap, electric light and there is an ablution block per five homes. There are now twenty "high dependency" people who live close to the Clinic in single rooms and they have all their cooking, cleaning, bathing and laundry done for them. Mutemwa is primarily a Health Care Facility and as such is under the authority of the nearby Mutoko District Hospital.

The majority of the residents are not Zimbabwean at all but were migrant workers from the neighbouring countries of Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia, and out of 54 only 15 are women. Most former leprosy patients live in their communities around the country but as they become elderly so they are less able to look after themselves or be looked after by relatives and that is when many are referred to Mutemwa by the Social Welfare Department. Every area of the country is covered by Leprosy Scouts whose work is to keep records of all old cases of leprosy and to visit them regularly. These Scouts also visit and treat all those in the active phase of leprosy and advise and help as necessary. Mutemwa also has a wonderful lady doctor who is a Consultant at the Tropical Diseases Unit at Harare Hospital who visits every three months to examine all the

residents and any old leprosy patients who live in the surrounding countryside.

Many of the residents at Mutemwa have lived there for a very long time. There is Wilson who first came in 1954 and who lost his left leg some years ago, imagine my horror when the other day he was putting on his prosthetic leg, fell and broke his good right leg! I rushed him into hospital where a back slab was put on before bringing him home. It was only two weeks later when we had a celebration on Easter Day that Wilson was seen dancing to the music on two crutches and his prosthetic leg! There is Simon who lost both legs and an arm when he fell into the fire during an epileptic fit before he came to Mutemwa; he has a wife and ten children who visit him regularly. Simon is the happiest person I have ever met, always smiling and laughing and always the first to greet everyone. Eric who also lost both legs last year after falling into a fire during a fit and was told by the hospital that he could be fitted for artificial legs but there was no money for them. He is a very cheerful, spiritual and gentle person and the added tragedy here is that Eric is only 22 years of age. Sakina was diagnosed with leprosy only a few years ago when her condition was fairly well advanced. She has suffered and continues to do so but is never without a smile and her thoughts are always for other people. All the residents help each other, those who can see are the eyes for those who are blind, those who can walk do errands for those who cannot, those who can use their hands will cook or weed for those who are unable to and those who cannot do anything physical will keep each other company, tell stories and cheer us all up!

Most of the staff have lived and worked at Mutemwa for many years, some are themselves children or grandchildren of lepers so there is a strong feeling of family and of course community among them all. The new Administrator is Auxillia, who has a degree in Sociology and many years experience in Human Resources and running a family business. She is a warm, friendly and strong person with a wonderful sense of humour.



*Auxillia Chiviya
the new Administrator at Mutemwa*

Johnson does the maintenance and is always to be seen with a spanner and/or hammer in his hand as he tackles yet another job.

Ernest drives the various vehicles bringing stores from Harare or Mutoko, taking and fetching people to hospital etc.

Two nurse aides; Rudo and Anzikaria staff the Clinic and there is a steady stream of patients requiring dressings and medication throughout the day. The Clinic has six beds but is not often used for in-patients as most can be nursed in their own homes.

Shorayi and Abigail staff the kitchen and take it in turns to be on duty, they have a long day starting early in the morning cooking breakfast for 7.30 a.m. and finishing at 6 p.m. after the last meal of the day.

Tunica and Telmore work very hard as cleaners and take a lot of pride in making the residents rooms and immediate environment comfortable and clean.

Robert is a young school leaver who began on the Food for Work programme and bathes the heavier residents and does the heavier cleaning work.

Patricia (also originally Food for Work) does the endless mounds of laundry in the biggest industrial washing machine I have ever seen.

Ignatius works in the kitchen garden producing vegetables, he is in the process of doubling the size of the kitchen garden and it is hoped Mutemwa will become self-sufficient in vegetables by the end of this year.

Freddy and Ingidzai are the two Security guards who work one week of nights on and one week off, they patrol the whole area inside the security fences all night long and are the first to know if any of the residents need help during the night or if there are any intruders.

control and there is no need to worry, as it is easy to cure! It is true that it is simple to treat but a diagnosis needs to be made early, the drugs need to be available and they have to be taken as prescribed in order to avoid the peripheral damage that causes so many of the long term problems. There are two types of Leprosy; one is called Paucibacillary and the other Multibacillary. The former is more easily and quickly cured and the latter takes longer to treat and is more difficult to eradicate completely.

extremely disfiguring and disabling. Fingers, hands, toes and feet are the most common areas affected and it can often lead to the total loss of limbs. There is also loss of limbs due to injuries such as burns, infection and breaking of bones because the lack of sensation causes the person to be unaware of pain and therefore warn of danger! Another very common problem is that of blindness and impaired sight, caused by the person being unable to blink. Eyes need to be moistened and protected by the eyelids and if this does not happen the eyes become damaged, ulcerated and eventually blind.



Christine with Fr. Paschal Slevin OFM and Ama Sara during her stay at Mutemwa.

The well-known and much-loved Chapel is the centre of the Spiritual life at Mutemwa and services are held there regularly with Communion being given at least three times a week, usually by Stella Corneck from the nearby Mother of Peace Community. Father Dove comes one weekend per month and gives Mass on the Sunday, Father Paschal also comes every month and always stays several days and gives Mass every morning when there. The Priest from All Souls Mission also tries to come once every two weeks but cannot always do so because of the fuel shortages in the country. The residents fill the Chapel and when there are a lot of Pilgrims visiting the service will be held outside in front of the Clinic. Most of the residents are Catholic but there are also Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and Muslims.

It is generally thought that leprosy nowadays is under

In Zimbabwe last year there were ten new cases of leprosy recorded which is not to mean there were not more, it just means that those were the numbers that were diagnosed. In the neighbouring countries of Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and Botswana the number of those who have leprosy is considerably higher than in Zimbabwe. The disease can be

Zimbabwe's problems with the HIV/AIDS pandemic are well known, with unofficial figures now claiming that there are 5-7,000 people per week dying in the country and 50% or more people are HIV+, maybe more. Life expectancy in the early 1990s was 75 years of age; it is now 38 years of age. It does not take much imagination to realise that many of the residents at Mutemwa may also be HIV+ and that one day Mutemwa may well be looking after many more sick and dying people than it does at present. Zimbabwe's resources are being stretched to the limit at the moment and the Government Hospitals are not able to cope with all the demands made on them with Mission Hospitals and NGO's now providing in the region of 65% of all the in-patient care in the country.

Mutemwa has experienced many changes since the Settlement first arrived there in the 1930's and it will continue to experience many more in the years that lie ahead, but its ability to adapt, thrive and endure are its strengths and the residents and staff who live there are its visible signs of continuity.



The mens' afternoon 'siesta' at Mutemwa

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY of new Trustee Lawrence Vambe, MBE

Lawrence Chinyani Vambe was born in Chishawasha Mission near Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, now Harare, Zimbabwe. He was educated at Jesuit schools in Southern Rhodesia - namely Chishawasha and Kutama, and subsequently in South Africa, where he matriculated at the then widely known and prestigious Catholic High School for black boys and girls, called St. Francis College, Mariannhill, just outside Durban, Natal.

After teacher training, he taught for several years in both countries, but thereafter was drawn to the profession of journalism and employed by Messrs. African Newspapers Ltd. The African Newspapers group, based in the colony's capital, Salisbury, owned and published several publications in English as well as various vernaculars, which catered for some 9 million Africans in what became known as the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. These included one daily, two weeklies and one fortnightly. Starting in 1946 as proof-reader, Vambe was promoted to various editorial positions and in 1953 became Editor-in-Chief of the group. In 1958 he was awarded the M.B.E. by Her Majesty the Queen for

services to journalism in the Federation. The following year he was offered and accepted the appointment of Press Attache at Rhodesia House, the Federation's High Commission on the Strand in London, where he served for 3 years, i.e. 1959 to 1962 when he resigned on political grounds.

Joining the Anglo American Corporation of Central Africa shortly after as information officer, he worked in Salisbury (Harare) for a brief period and then in Lusaka, Zambia, from which he was transferred in 1964 to the Anglo American sister company in Britain, namely Charter Consolidated PLC in the City of London.

When he retired from Charter Consolidated at the end of 1970, Vambe and a partner formed an import and export company by the name of Afromarket (London) Ltd., trading mainly with Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Vambe, like most of his compatriots, was profoundly affected by the act of rebellion committed by the Rhodesian Front in November 1965. Inevitably, in between business commitments, he was heavily involved in the struggle to topple the illegal regime, writing as well as speaking in and outside London on what he

regarded as a colossal tragedy for all the people of Zimbabwe.

His first book came out in 1972. It was called "AN ILL-FATED PEOPLE" and published by William Heinemann Publishers in Britain and in the United States by the Pittsburgh Press. His second carried the title "FROM RHODESIA TO ZIMBABWE", also by the same publishers, and appeared in 1976.

When in 1979 the British Government succeeded in forcing the Rhodesians to give up their majority rule in favour of the black majority, Vambe decided to leave Britain and return home. Back in Harare, he chose to continue his business career and, in due course, was appointed non-executive director of several subsidiaries of British companies, notably, Barclays Bank, Chubb Union Security, ICL, Oxygen Industries (B.O.C.), Zimbabwe Sugar Refineries (Tate & Lyle), Rennie-Grinaker, Triangle Ltd., etc.

He was for ten years Chairman of CAPSA, namely Canadian Association for the Private Sector in Southern Africa and in that capacity visited Canada frequently.

Lawrence Vambe was made "Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Couronne", that is, Knight of the Order of the Belgian Crown", in recognition of his services as Commercial Counsellor to the Belgian Embassy in Zimbabwe for several years.

FACE TO FACE

with John Bradburne

*An interview which was published in
The Shield Magazine in March 1965*

John, you are a caretaker cum general help at Silveira House, but our readers know you better as a poet. Would you say that writing poetry was part of your vocation?

Yes, I would say, as a vehicle of putting my message across I do consider poetry an integral part of my vocation because I find that I can say what I want to say most clearly and memorably in verse.

If poetry is part of your vocation how do you view your over-all vocation?

My vocation is that of any Christian—trying to get to Heaven and, in trying to do so myself, to influence others heavenward according to what talent I may have.

I understand you have tried your religious vocation several times.

Yes. I tried it in three different orders of congregations. The first was with the Carthusians in Sussex; the second was with the Congregation of Our Lady of Zion—that was in Belgium—and the third was with the Benedictines at Prinknash in Gloucestershire.

Most people try a religious vocation only once.

I think the people who try once, are the people who go through with it and I think, generally speaking, that if people try once and fail they should not try again, but I did myself for reasons which, at the moment, baffle me.

In the course of trying these vocations I believe you walked the length of Europe.

After the Carthusians I went on a pilgrimage to Rome. This was by steamer and train, but I left Rome with £7-10-0 for Israel. By God's



help I arrived in Nazareth with one shilling.

I understand that in the course of your travels you spent a year as a sacristan in Italy.

Yes, on arrival in Israel I joined the House of the Congregation of Our Lady of Zion. That was in Jerusalem. I joined as a "stray" and they said to me "If you are interested in the Jews why don't you go off to our novitiate in Louvain in Belgium?" After spending seven weeks with them in Jerusalem I did. After eighteen

months in Belgium I left of my own accord. I proceeded hitchhiking across France and Italy, legging my way and sleeping in fields—it was August, 1952. I hoped to get to Naples and work a passage from there back to Israel. However, I got to Naples and found too many of their own people—Italians—trying to work passages as well, to allow a foreigner to do it. Naples was a cul-de-sac, so I was stuck in Italy and by a set of curious coincidences was employed by a priest who wanted a sacristan.

Where was this?

In Palma Campania. In return for this office I received my daily needs. I slept in the organ loft and it was nice, if one did wake up in the night, to play the organ alone in the church. Then, my father died rather suddenly and I left for England to assist the family.

What happened then?

I then tried my third vocation at Prinknash and left there after four months. A little later I was a street musician in London for two months. then I got a job as a porter in St. Mary Abbott's Hospital. After that I worked at Burns Oates and from there went just across the road to a job as sub-sacristan of Westminster Cathedral. Then Cardinal Godfrey asked me if I would take care of his very old Elizabethan country house—Hare Street in Hertfordshire. It was left for the use of the Cardinals of Westminster by Monsignor Benson.

How long were you there?

For two and a half years, and during that time I was pretty strongly influenced by the spirit of that great reformation figure, Robert Hugh Benson,—the author of "Come Rack, Come Rope," "The Necromancers," and so on. I used to sleep in the room in which he had worked. I had also a great admiration for Cardinal Godfrey. He was a very holy man. he was always "on the mountain with God."

You said you were a convert?

Yes. My father, who was the vicar of a small parish at the foot of crossfell in Cumberland was himself a parson's son and I did not become a Catholic until after the war in 1947, on the feast of Christ

the King. That is part of the whole Jewish idea which leads me to say that my concern for the Jews dated chiefly from my thinking about the gospel of that feast—"Art thou the King of the Jews?" I thought what a pity that he is not since he was born of Juda. I could elaborate considerably but I prefer to present it in verse, as and when and if it suits.

Why did you become a Catholic?

I wanted to be sure of salvation. I came to the conclusion that there could not be more than one true Church that Christ had founded, and by the Grace of God I got there. There was in me a great desire to belong to a society which could embrace a maximum, and not an exclusive minimum of people on their way to Heaven. The influence of India and four and a half years in the East stirred my mind a good deal. I was deeply influenced by a friend of mine with me in the army out there who is now a Jesuit priest in this diocese.

When did you start writing poetry?

During my first Spring in the Church, which was in 1948 that is except for one quatrain written at school under compulsion:

"When Bluff King Hal discovered that the Pope

Declared that he, the king, had not a hope,

'I'll be supreme,' quoth he, 'and keep my wives,'

Then trundled off to have a game of fives."

This was a rather rebellious verse for an Anglican school-boy wasn't it?

No, my father was of the High Church persuasion and sincerely believed that he was fully Catholic.

There seems to be a strong connection between your conversion and your work as a poet, then?

I never wanted to write, I never felt the impulsion to put thoughts into verse until that first Spring. I also believe that anyone who has a talent however small or great, once he is a Catholic should use it for the sake of the Kingdom.

Have you any unfulfilled ambitions?

To see the return of Juda in my own life-time. One important part of my work at Silveira House is looking after a flock of nearly a hundred hens and this pleases me very much because it reminds me of the similitude used by Our Lord concerning the gathering together of his own special Jerusalem. "As a hen gathers her chickens." I feel that this is as near a practical measure to the conversion of the Jews as I can get.

Do you receive a salary?

At my own request I receive a salary in kind. I am paid by being given my needs of food and clothing.

Why did you come to Rhodesia?

To help on the missions.

Are you settled here?

Yes, so long as I feel that I earn at least as much as I cost to keep. I like the wideness of the country, I like the mountains and the freshness of it ...

Have you anything to add?

Yes, I'd like to know that Jews are reading my verse.

Steeplejack Gallant

Oh to be cocksure! as on the steeple
Heaven-pointed chanticleer,
uncrowing
Token lofty of a lowly people
Only centred on the One all-knowing!
Beautifully poised, royally gilded,
Elegant, a-tiptoe, summit-high,
Certain on a structure strongly builded.
Orient with Occident a-sky
Chartered, compassed with the North and South,
Keen, supreme, compacted in a sign
Simple as Creation from God's mouth
Uttered in the Word of Thought
Divine:
Right bright gallant, breeze-revealing seer
Emptied of sound, filled with appeal
thrill-clear,
Ownest enchantment's cry thou,
height of cheer!

John Bradburne

NEW WEBSITE

WE HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE ON www.johnbradburne.com

This includes the current and past newsletters, updates of news and events, items for sale, and the new free booklet by John Vose, which we are delighted to send out for distribution to friends or parishes.

Gift Aid and Covenant forms are available for donations.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MY UNCLE - PAMELA KINGSFORD

My first memories of my Uncle John, who was also my Godfather, dated from the early 1950s, when I was about seven years old, at "Fir Grove", his parents house at West Hill near Ottery St. Mary (or "Fir Grave" as he used to call it). He was charged with looking after me one afternoon when everyone else went out and we amused ourselves sitting at the dining room table writing poetry - he asked me to suggest a subject and at that age my chief interest was "Fairies", we both wrote a poem, but sadly I did not consider our efforts worth keeping! He nearly always wrote his letters to me in verse and signed himself with the title I had given him "The Crackers Franciscan", which I think he rather liked.

John came to stay with us at our house in Cobham, Surrey, for about three months in 1962 so as to be near London while he arranged his travel to Rhodesia, and wrote the following poem out for me some time during that period - whether it was one he had composed previously and remembered or whether he wrote it at the time I do not know: the

manuscript flows without break or corrections. I am particularly fond of the third verse and the use of rhyme and alliteration in it; I remember asking John what a "pavan" was, and being very impressed by his knowledge and use of words.

CAROL

With Cluny, Quarr and Lindisfarne
We went along the way
That leads to everlasting light
Of everlasting day
And as we went we sang a psalm
For 'twas the month of May.

Far far ahead the holy hills
With summits seamed in snow
Loomed magically, mistily,
Whilst close at hand did flow
The stream of Life past meads and
mills
Of now and long ago.

We sang a psalm as made pavan
Eight centuries of paves,
Not peacock's pride was strutting
there

But Love that rocks and laves
Moved to and fro in lowliness
Liturgical the staves.

With Cluny, Quarr and Lindisfarne
We heard the holy Mass,
With them received the kiss of
peace
Which Christ The King did pass,
And may we sing for aye their
psalm
Of Deo Gratias.



Pamela, John's niece and Goddaughter remembers their time together before his departure for Rhodesia in 1962

TESTIMONIES

During the Guerilla War (now called the war of independence) I served in the Rhodesian Forces. I was a Territorial Officer, and on one of the early deployments, my unit was posted to the Mtoko district in north east Zimbabwe. While on this deployment we were visited by our Territorial Medical Officer, a Dr Sandy Kirk, and while with us he expressed a desire to visit the leper colony at Mutemwa. I was at that time the Intelligence Officer of our unit and our CO, and he said that if we wished to visit the place I would arrange the trip.

I got a squad of men together and we proceeded to the leper colony. I might add that at this time I was not practicing my religion and was in fact a little bit anti the Catholic Church for its support of the independence movement. However, we arrived at Mutemwa and Dr Sandy proceeded to walk among the lepers and to take great

interest in them. I observed from afar, not really wanting to come into contact with 'these people'. As the visit progressed I moved about the village and it was at this time that I came across this white guy, who I took to be a vagrant and down and out, but who somehow did not have the aura of a 'yahoo', but somehow gave the feeling of dignity. We spoke for a few minutes before I moved on. What had I missed?? Who knows, but it is some thing that I feel in my own heart, now, was a special time. I never really knew much more of the situation and in fact as my unit moved to the south east of the country shortly after I completely lost touch with the situation. And it was only in recent times that I have come to know more of this great man and his peace and devotion.

We in Bulawayo really support the cause for progress towards sainthood and he is a regular in our prayers at the end of the Rosary.

Mike Glenshaw, Bulawayo

While I have passed most of the past 37 years teaching in schools conducted by the Congregation of the Holy Cross (in a school for delinquent boys and another for the very poor in the urban core) I am currently serving with the Society of Jesus in suburban Chicago. I am a lay teacher, counsellor, retreat leader, and facilitator of spiritual book clubs. Finding John was like coming across a great friend who understands the search for holiness in the world, and one who shares a passion for service to others. He has become a great prayer companion. I will be pleased to speak to others about my "friend".

Thomas Hull, Chicago, USA

Last year someone gave us one or two leaflets about John Bradburne. We 'talk' to him as a friend and love his picture, which seems to show his joy and sense of fun. We say the Novena Prayers and until recently have never

asked for a particular intention. Then we needed to sell our house. "Not much happening" said our agents, "It is December" - and we live in a rural area. We sold the house in the first weekend and had 15 or 16 lots of viewers in one week, so asked the agents to take it off the market.

We said "You can stop now John". We also bought a house which we had been told was

already promised - it came back to us and all the buying and selling process is in place. So I am writing to say "Thank you John, for your life and example".

**Josephine and friends,
North Yorkshire**

I thought you would be interested to hear that I have this year received an answer to my

prayers through the intercession of John Bradburne. the mother-in-law of my nephew, a French lady, has been suffering from cancer, and obviously everyone was expecting the worst. I have twice made a novena to John, and the latest news is that the tumours have shrunk and may soon disappear.

I enclose a donation in thanksgiving.

ADJG, Salisbury

JOHN BRADBURNE 25TH ANNIVERSARY MASS AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL September 18th at 2 o'clock

This September marks twenty five years since John Bradburne's death. We are holding an Anniversary Mass at Westminster Cathedral on September 18th at 2 o'clock with talks and tea afterwards in Cathedral Hall.

Fr John Dove SJ will be coming over from Zimbabwe to give the homily and talk about his friend. Professor David Crystal will give a talk about John Bradburne's poetry which he has been collating into an archive for the past three years. Fr Sean Gildea OFM who knew John out in Zimbabwe, will also be talking about John from the Franciscan angle. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and give personal testimonies if people wish to do so.

We hope very much that as many of you as possible will be able to come to this celebration, and look forward to seeing you on the day. We will be having an exhibition of photographs, and a special display of flowers on John's favourite theme - Three in One.

Tickets are available for the tea and talks in Westminster Cathedral Hall from the Society on 01568 760632.

LADYEWELL JOHN BRADBURNE DAY - September 5th

Ladyewell Shrine will be organizing a John Bradburne Day on Sunday September 5th, the date of John Bradburne's death. For further enquiries about this event please contact Ladyewell House on 01772 700181.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE JOHN BRADBURNE MEMORIAL SOCIETY

1. John Bradburne's Mutemwa. In poems and pictures edited by David and Hilary Crystal. £6.00.
2. Strange Vagabond of God. Memoir of John Bradburne by Fr John Dove SJ. £14.
3. Songs of the Vagabond. Book of poems by John Bradburne selected by Professor David Crystal. £7.00.
4. John Bradburne of Mutemwa, 1921-1979. Booklet £1.50. Orders for ten or more copies at £1 each.
5. Audio cassette of John Bradburne reading his poems. Recorded by him at Mutemwa. £6.00.
6. Audio cassette of Westminster Cathedral Hall talks with Fr John Dove and Professor David Crystal, with testimonies. £6.00.
7. Video - 'On Eagle's Wings'. The life and death of John Bradburne. £12.00.
8. T.V. Documentary video about John Bradburne - "Issues of Faith" (Presented by Fr Claudio Rossi) £9.00.
9. Video 'Do Not Let the Dream Die' £10.00 (includes testimonies about John Bradburne).
10. Print of the painting of John's life by Fr Claudio Rossi SJ, £2.50.
11. Cards (no message) from the painting by Fr Claudio Rossi SJ. 10 for £3.50.
12. John Bradburne prayer leaflets available on request at £2.50.

All prices include postage and packing.

Newsletters available on request.

For orders outside the UK please add £5.00 for p&p.

Please do not send foreign cash or postal orders. These cannot be cleared through our banking system - sorry.

Credit cards cannot be accepted - apologies.

Gift Aid and Covenant Forms available on request.

ORDER FORM

To: John Bradburne Memorial Society
P O Box 32
Leominster
Herefordshire HR6 0YB

E-mail address: johnbradburne@hotmail.com

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