

JBMS NEWSLETTER

Published by The John Bradburne Memorial Society
PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0YB, UK
Tel: 01568 760632 e-mail: info@johnbradburne.com
website www.johnbradburne.com
UK Registered Charity No. 1046483

WINTER 2018



Celia Brigstocke
7th October 1954 – 16th August 2018

On the 10th September 2018 at 11.00am we celebrated Celia Brigstocke's (John's neice) Requiem Mass. Coincidentally this was the exact same date and time that John Bradburne also had his funeral in 1979.

A beautiful service was led by Father David Harold Barry who was a close family friend and worked with John Bradburne and Father John Dove in Zimbabwe some years ago. There was an enormous turn out of people who celebrated with Celia's family her life and work. The overriding emotion is one of love and devotion, not only to her husband and three daughters, but also her devotion to John Bradburne, Catholicism and her work at JBMS.

Simultaneous to Celia's funeral in the UK, there was a mass held in Zimbabwe at the Mutemwa Leprosy Catholic and Care Centre by Father Tigere Patience and in the Dominican Convent, Harare conducted by Father Konrad Landsberg SJ of Silveira House.



**Dominican Convent,
Harare**

JBMS was founded in 1995 to support the Mutemwa Leprosy Settlement in Zimbabwe in the name of its late warden.

Beatification Process:

Below are photographs of Enrico Graziano Giovanni Solinas and Amilcare Conti who are helping JBMS in the process of John's Cause for Beatification. Both are based in Perugia, Italy and are working tirelessly to help us start the process.



Enrico Graziano Giovanni Solinas
Postulator for John's Cause



Amilcare Conti
Secretary to Cardinal Bassetti

If anyone thinks they have received a grace or miracle through John's intercession, please do email: johnbradburne@hotmail.co.uk or write to us at the JBMS address with your information as this will help support John's Cause for Beatification.

The prayer below will go on John's Beatification Prayer Card:

*God our Father, your servant John Randal Bradburne
showed the power of Your love by his life and death.*

*May his love of Christ and of Mary His Mother,
together with his selfless service to those considered least in the world,
be a model for us to follow.*

*We therefore ask for a favour through his intercession,
so that his generosity and holiness may be recognised by the whole Church.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

AMEN

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

Celebration in Zimbabwe of John Bradburne's 39th Anniversary

A large anniversary ceremony was held in Mutemwa from 7-9th September 2018. People turned up in their thousands to celebrate John Bradburne's life and work at Mutemwa.

The celebrations began on Friday 7th September in the afternoon with mass and rosary followed by supper and confessions at the bottom of the valley in Mutemwa. The following day on Saturday 8th September prayers and confessions started at 6am then throughout the day there was singing, music, talks, testimonies and a Mass at 9pm. The midnight procession up Chigona Mountain started at 11.45pm. Once at the summit there was praise and worship at the shrine on top of the mountain. On the last day, Sunday 9th September there was a mass in the morning and then people started to depart off the mountain.



It was an awe-inspiring and special spiritual event and demonstrates how popular and loved John is among the Zimbabwean people to whom he continues to be an inspiration.

A staggering \$6,768.97 was raised over John's 39th Anniversary in Zimbabwe and this will go a fair way to clear an enormous outstanding water bill at the Leprosy Centre.



Extract from the privately published memoirs of Schalk Jacobus Viljoen 1927-2016, titled 'In Retro'

Our paths crossed for a brief 13 months. We lived on the same farm. John lived by himself in an enormous house on the hill with a large church situated right in front of it in the garden. My wife and I and our little girl resided about 2 km down the hill from there.

When I acquired the farm, the church and farmhouse together with the little school down the road were excised from the farm and donated to the Catholic Church. The Archbishop appointed John Bradburne as the caretaker of it. He was about 45 years of age and called Brother by the church people.

John had come to Rhodesia at the bequest of his lifelong friend Father John Dove. There was no accommodation that suited him upon arrival and he moved into an old water tank in solitude on a high hill at a missionary station west of Enkeldoorn. Our paths almost crossed there because at the time I worked in the area.

We had heard stories about a strange white man with a long white beard who lived on the hilltop. In September 1963, we moved from there to Mbebi farm. Then in May 1964 John came to us on the farm.

He came to meet us because there were certain mutual arrangements that had to be made. On this fleeting encounter we discovered that he, like us, had a special liking for classical music. He impressed us as a highly developed, well-read man who was reserved in his interaction with others. His outward appearance did not matter to him and he looked rather bedraggled. He would not talk about himself. I wished to get to know him better because there was an aura of mystery about him that fascinated me.

My first maize crop was most promising and according to calculations we would have been able to break even with our indebtedness. It was in July and we were making good progress with the harvesting when late one evening a big wildfire from the north was advancing on a harvested field. Adjacent was the largest, most beautiful and most valuable block of maize. We had to combat the fire. All hands, all 45 of us were summoned to come and fight the fire.

There, 50 metres from the fire the light was blazing and the heat intense, increasing as the fire approached. The flames and maize leaves flying 50 metres above, were terrifying. The road resembled a jet plane. To strike at the fire was impossible. How could we protect the valuable block of maize?

The Farmworkers and I discussed what could be done. John Bradburne came running past us aiming straight for the fire. He was, he thought adequately equipped to quench the fire. He had cut holes in plastic fertilizer bags to make shirt and trousers and wrapped his face in plastic.

I ran after him "Do you want to commit suicide; do you know what plastic can do if it catches alight on your skin?"

John replied "Why don't you do something? I know how important the maize is to you?"

I explained we were helpless. "God alone can help."

He immediately said "Then, let us pray." The 45 farmworkers knelt in a circle and prayed together. John joined with the most moving prayer I had ever heard "If there is any sense in my life, hear my prayer on behalf of this brother of mine for whom so much is at stake. Lift this cloud so that your omnipotence can break through".

Suddenly the heat abated, the light was less glaring and the crackling of the fire, softer. What a miracle! Can it be? The wind had changed 180 degrees and was now forcefully blowing the fire out upon itself.

John's face radiated as if aglow was gleaming from within as he exclaimed: "Now you have seen what our God can do."

John R Bradburne: mystic, musician, wanderer, dreamer, poet, prophet, good Samaritan and seeker of God, who as a martyr brought the greatest sacrifice for his friends.

Was he a "Man of God? A Saint?"

There is widespread agitation and numerous representations from all over that he should be declared a 'Saint.' I would add my voice hereto.

Projects At Mutemwa

Tinashe Kazuva is the Project Manager at Mutemwa and has a vital role running these projects. Below is a brief summary of the various ongoing projects.

Piggery:

The piggery was started in 2007 with help from JBMS funding and now has 62 pigs - 15 sows, 2 boars and 45 piglets. Tinashe oversees feeding and keeping the pigs healthy. The project has 27 porkers for the market that fetch \$5.00 per kilogram for meat. This helps to boost income back into the project.



Bee Hives:

Bees were one of John's loves and the story of there being a bee hive under his writing desk where the bee's never stung him is well known.

There are 25 hives on site at the Care Centre. Givmore Chibanda harvests the hives and monitors the bees. They produce and sell the honey at Mutemwa to generate an income.





Chickens:

There are 42 chickens in total. 7 cockerels, 7 hens and 28 chicks. They are currently incubating 50 eggs to boost the project at Mutemwa. 'Road Runners Project'.



Cattle:

Mutemwa houses 14 cattle - 7 cows, 5 calves, 1 heifer and 1 bull. The cattle help plough the fields during the rainy season, an arduous task for both animal and people working the land. Nomore Nyakapene is the herdsman for all the cattle.



Rabbits:

4 female and 1 male and new babies just born.



The money we raise at JBMS goes directly to help these agricultural projects at Mutemwa and has become a great source of generating an income for the Centre and for the patients to have fresh produce to eat.

Cross Erected

Robert Kawadza has been instrumental in helping raise awareness of John and his work in Zimbabwe. He has helped fund the erection of an 8m high Cross at Mudzonga where John's body was found and when completed will become a shrine for pilgrims to visit, alongside the shrine at Gwaze, the cave where John was last seen alive. This shrine at Gwaze is already drawing people in their numbers for prayers.

Where Your Money Is Being Spent:

Last summer Teresa Yonge canoed 134 miles along the River Thames, raising money for Mutemwa. £2,500 was raised and has been used to buy three water tanks to keep the Leprosy Settlement going. Thank you to all those who donated to this worthwhile cause.



Projects That Need Money Raised For:

At Mutemwa they are in desperate need of buying a reliable ambulance to transport patients to and from the hospital in Harare. This will cost \$20,000.

They are also looking to buy a new grinding machine to grind down maize and corn to make food. This will cost \$3,700.

The staff at the Leprosy Centre, of which there are over 20 people, are always looking for work overalls, wellington boots and umbrellas especially during the rainy season.

If anyone can help fund any of these projects or can help raise money towards these needs please keep in touch and let us know.

YOUR LETTERS

I have visited the patients at Mutemwa and walked the path at the top of the mount and prayed regularly for John's intercessions.

D. Magden, Hereford.

My mother and father knew John quite well when they lived up in Holylake, Cheshire and were good friends with Fr Dove. My mother told me that John spilt soup over a Bishop (by mistake) but I do not know what happened afterwards!

P. Cain, Bristol.

I came to know of John from your website and since then, I think I have prayed to him daily. He has come to my heart.

P. Lorda, Spain.

I met the late Fr John Dove in Leamington Spa. He celebrated Mass every day and was overjoyed to learn I was from Zimbabwe and a wonderful friendship was developed. The main conversation was always John Bradburne. We had many discussions and Fr Dove had a deep and untiring passion for the Cause of John Bradburne. On my return to London, Fr Dove gave me leaflets on John and I made a solemn promise that I would spread the word about Bradburne and do all I can.

I have started writing a novel as part of my university project on professions writing about

a Franciscan missionary and priest and the story of John Bradburne fitted so naturally into the fabric. My book 'The Next of Kin' is now available on Amazon.

O. Paasche, London.

Celia championed a cause which is so special in God's eyes. Lepers are unwanted by society and their charities seem to be cast away and forgotten too. To a good number of people, leprosy is a biblical or unfamiliar disease, yet to those who suffer from it, it is real and they endure physical and emotional pain. That is why your Great Uncle John is Blessed by God.

M. Mukonyora, Nottingham.

I must tell you of a further connection with Celia and John. I had phoned Celia and during this call she told me of her diagnosis of terminal brain cancer. I was so sad and then she went on to say it was on John's birthday that she found out! My answer, strange as it may have sounded, was that is a blessing and John's gift for you. There was a pause and then I explained that I could see why that happened, I said to Celia you would remember John on his birthday and it coincided with the day you got the news. In a convoluted way that the two-coincided made it quite sure that you would remember John and that you would know that he was remembering you.

A. Lander, London.

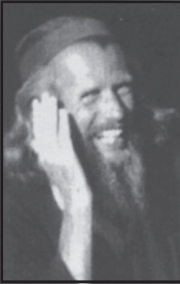
Dates for your Diary

1st December 2018 - An evening of music, songs, poems and images. Held at St Mary's Church Hall, Holyhead, LL65 1TY. Tickets £5 or can be booked through emailing: davidcrystal1@icloud.com.

21st-23 June 2019 - A weekend of 'Discovering John Bradburne' hosted at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria.

7th September 2019 - John Bradburne's 40th Anniversary Celebrations at Westminster Cathedral.

JBMS have produced some Christmas Cards this year, please look in the items for sale to see the images. We have also produced a 2019 Calendar with photographs of the Stations of the Cross, taken on top of Mount Chigona in Zimbabwe. All the money raised will go straight to Mutemwa Care Centre.



JBMS ITEMS LIST 2018/19

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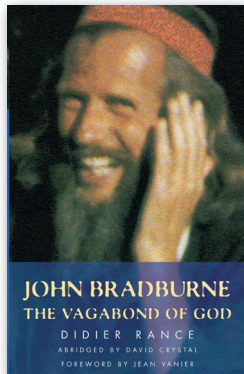


ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE JOHN BRADBURNE MEMORIAL SOCIETY

John Bradburne Vagabond of God

by Didier Rance

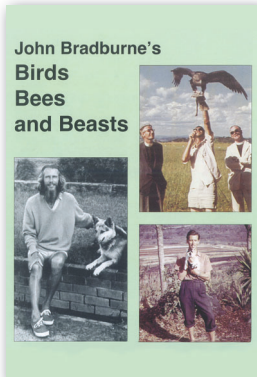
£12.00 487 pages



Birds, Bees and Beasts

Book of John Bradburne's nature poetry

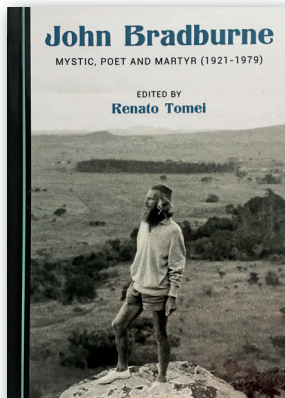
£10.00 156 pages



John Bradburne - Mystic, Poet and Martyr (1921-1979)

A selection of essays gathered here reflect the multifaceted experience of John Bradburne's Life and the turbulent times he encountered in mid 20th-century Rhodesia

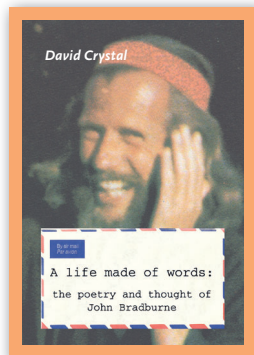
£58.99



A Life Made of Words

by David Crystal

£10.00 416 pages



Strange Vagabond of God



Fr John Dove S.J.

Strange Vagabond of God.

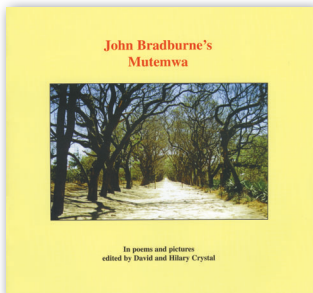
Memoir of John Bradburne
by Fr John Dove SJ

£12.00 289 pages

John Bradburne's Mutemwa

In poems and pictures
edited by David and Hilary Crystal

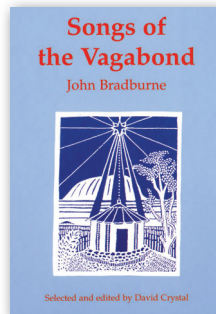
£7.00 38 pages



Songs of the Vagabond

Book of poems
by John Bradburne
selected by
Professor David Crystal

£10.00 84 pages



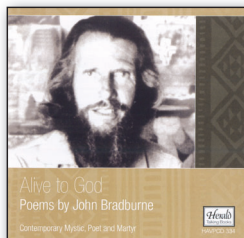
John R. Bradburne of Mutemwa 1921 - 1979

£2.50 24 page booklet

Alive to God

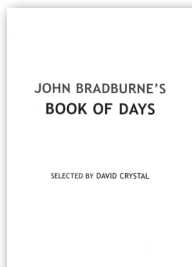
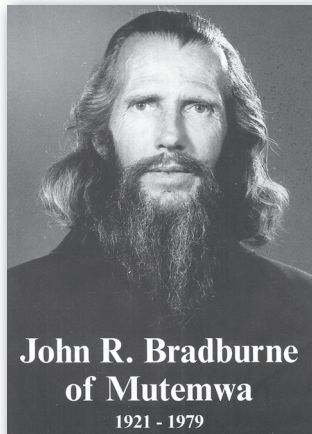
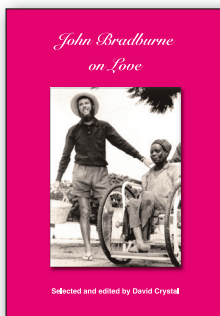
Poems & chants
by John Bradburne

£10.00 CD



John Bradburne on Love

£10.00 122 pages



John Bradburne's 'Book of Days'

a pocket size selection of
Bradburne's insights for each
day of the year, by
David Crystal

£10.00

Post & Packing add £3.50 per UK order - Overseas £8.50

Payment for orders can also be made via Paypal
on the JBMS website www.johnbradburne.com

Theme on the Life of John Bradburne

blank card

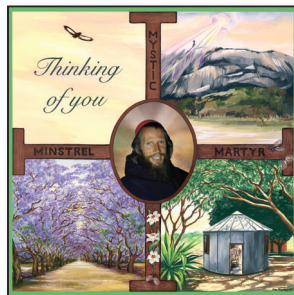
£4.00 pack of 6



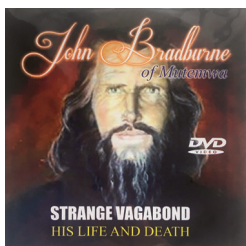
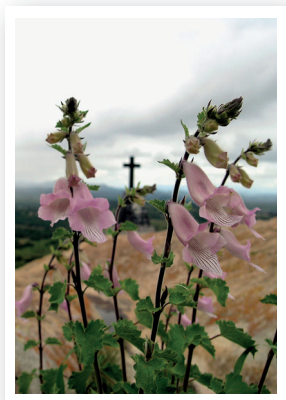
Thinking of You Greetings Card

size 5 1/2" square

£2.00 minimum order of 3



Pack of 6 mixed cards £6



Strange Vagabond

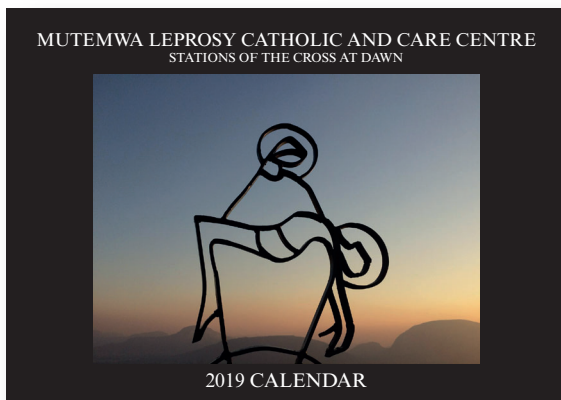
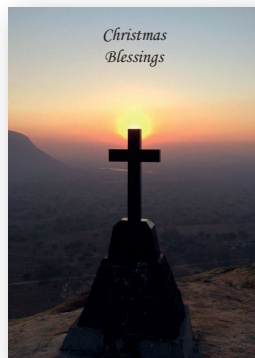
His Life & Death
John Bradburne

£5 DVD

Pack of 6 Christmas cards

Greeting inside card reads
"Christmas Blessings"

£6 per pack



Calendar 2019

Stations of the cross
calendar - photographs
from Mutemwa

£10 each

PERSONAL DETAILS

Pay online at www.johnbradburne.com

ITEMS REQUIRED

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debit.

DIRECT DEBIT

Please fill in the whole form and return it to:

JBMS, PO BOX 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB.

I would like to make a regular donation by Direct Debit to The John Bradburne Memorial Society

I would like to give: £

Per Month/Quarter/Year (Delete as appropriate)

Starting on the 1st/15th/25th of month 2018

Name of Account Holder(s):

Bank/Building Society Account Number:

Branch Sort Code:

Name and postal address of your Bank or Building Society:

To: The Manager

Address:

.....

..... Postcode

Signature of Account Holder

Signature: Date:

Print Name:

GIFT AID

Gift Aid allows us to claim back 25p of tax on every £1 you give, making your donation go further. I am a UK taxpayer and I would like the John Bradburne Memorial Society to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made, as well as future donations, until I notify them otherwise. (Please tick)

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I understand that if I pay less income/capital gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in the tax year in which they are received, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please let us know of any changes to your tax status including changes to your name or address or if you need to cancel this agreement. To enable us to claim Gift Aid on your donation, please ensure you have completed your name and address details overleaf.