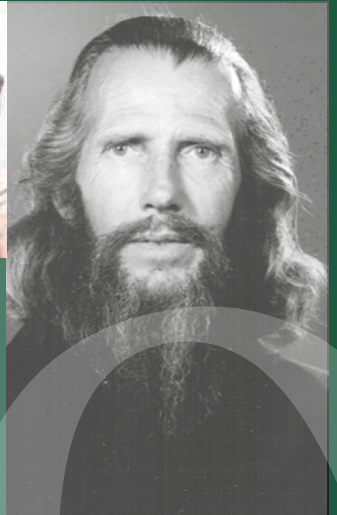




JBMS NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2019



40th
ANNIVERSARY
John Bradburne
1921-1979



OPENING OF JOHN BRADBURNE'S CAUSE

On the 5th Sept 1979, John Bradburne lost his life by gunmen at the side of the road in Zimbabwe. The same day some 40 years later marked the Opening Cause of the Beatification of John Bradburne. The official start of John's Cause for becoming a Saint was finally launched.

For the past forty years, there have been countless efforts by many to try to get John's case heard to mark him as a Saint, but sadly to no avail. Last year in 2018 something happened there was light and JBMS approached Dr Enrico Solinas from Perugia, Italy to be the postulator of John Bradburne's Cause. He duly accepted and John's Cause has been going from strength to strength ever since.



Archbishop Ndlovu (centre) with 4 Bishops of Zimbabwe

The ceremony held at Mutemwa on 5th Sept 2019, marked the official opening of the process of John's road to Sainthood.

Archbishop Ndlovu who has agreed to head John's Cause alongside Dr Enrico Solinas and JBMS celebrated the ceremony in Zimbabwe



along with 4 other Zimbabwean Bishops – Bishop Mupandasekwa, Bishop Bhasera, Bishop Serrano and Bishop Nyandoro. There were over 400 clergy who came to celebrate Mass with an astounding crowd of 15,000 people celebrating John's life. This surely was proof that there is something in John's power? Enrico mentioned that you would never normally get crowds like this in Italy just for the opening of a Cause. Certainly, in the UK, you would only get such an outpouring of support for people such as the Queen or Princess Diana's funeral. Yet here was a relatively unknown man forty years after his death bringing crowds to the place and people that John loved the most at Mutemwa.

Patients from the Leprosy Centre were wheeled over to be part of this momentous occasion and



Coletta Mafuta, a leprosy patient and close friend of John's asked permission from the Archbishop to officially start the Cause of John Bradburne's Beatification.

The service went on for 3 hours with singing and praising by the wonderful Archdiocese of Harare dancers and singers. A homily was given by Bishop Mupandasekwa, who talked openly about his experiences with John in his sermon.



Dr Enrico Solinas & Coletta Mafuta

Readings were done by Sister Margaret from the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood who read Colossians 1:9-14 and Kate Macpherson, John Bradburne's great niece who read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. At the end of the Mass, the Ecclesiastical Court that Archbishop Ndlovu has formed were called to sign a secrecy document. These members of the court are sworn to secrecy in all the information they will hear and deal with in the court room.

It was a truly momentous occasion for all who came to the event. John's presence and love was felt there at Mutemwa and the members of JBMS who participated in the event felt very honoured to have been part of such an occasion.



THE BEATIFICATION PROCESS:

A Cause of Beatification is part of the formal process by which a deceased person may be named a Saint in the Roman Catholic Church.

A Cause is a lengthy and complicated process, carried out at several levels within the church and can take years.



Each step requires involvement and approval of the candidate's home diocese, theologians and the Congregation for the Causes of Saints (a panel of Cardinals, Bishops and others) before approval is granted by the Pope.

The Cause of Beatification of John Bradburne is based in the Diocese of Harare, Zimbabwe where John Bradburne worked for many years. It is coordinated by Archbishop Ndlovu, Dr Enrico Solinas the postulator and co-postulator Monsignor Gabriele Pesce and JBMS.

There are three main steps towards Sainthood:

- 1) Declaration of Venerability
- 2) Beatification
- 3) Canonisation



VENERABILITY:

A person declared Venerable is recognised by the church as having lived a saintly life and practised the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, among others.

BEATIFICATION:

Before beatification, the church must determine that God has worked a miracle through the intercession of the candidate.

CANONISATION:

This is where the candidate is recognised as a Saint within the universal church. This requires documentation of another miracle worked through their intercession. Many who are beatified are never canonised, but this doesn't diminish their role as models for people of faith.



At present John Bradburne's cause is at the very start of venerable stage and he is termed a 'SERVANT OF GOD'. Next the Ecclesiastical court will call witnesses, many who JBMS and the postulator have interviewed over the last year, with their testimonies of John in Zimbabwe, the UK and worldwide. Then a large document is compiled with these testimonies and accounts and sent to the Vatican. On approval of this, John will be deemed Venerable. As there have been several attested miracles, we are hopeful to reach the second stage soon.

If you experience any intercessions, miracles through praying to John, please do email us on info@johnbradburne.com or write to us at: JBMS, PO BOX 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB. We need your help in pushing John's Cause forward.

JBMS would like to say a special thank you to the continuing commitment of our team and to all you loyal supporters, so many of whom have been donating to our work for many years. Without you Mutemwa wouldn't be the place it is. You are the lifeblood of JBMS, Thank you.

40TH ANNIVERSARY



This year marks the 40th year since John Bradburne was murdered in Zimbabwe. To mark this historic year, on 21st September 2019 at Westminster Cathedral, JBMS organised a celebratory Mass and exhibition in honour of John.

Over 500 people attended the Mass in the Cathedral, with many Zimbabweans who specifically flew over for the event as well as a huge Bradburne family gathering from all over the world.

You were welcomed into the Cathedral by a walkway of Zimbabwean Catholic Community England and Wales (ZCCEW) choir, singing beautiful Zimbabwean songs accompanied by drums. Everyone walking into the Cathedral couldn't stop smiling, the music, praising of God and joy was infectious.



Mass was celebrated by Father Daniel Humphreys, sub-administrator of Westminster Cathedral, with a homily by Monsignor Robert Mercer, who spent a great deal of time in Zimbabwe.



Monsignor Robert Mercer

Readings were done by Reverend Ben Bradshaw and Benjamin Takavarasha. Among the clergy celebrants were Father David Harold Barry SJ, a close friend of John's in Zimbabwe and Father Liam McCarthy OFM, who for many years ran the Leprosy Centre in Zimbabwe. His successor Father Patience Tigere who currently oversees the Mutemwa Care Centre joined the celebrations.



Rev Ben Bradshaw & Ben Takavarasha

The juxtaposition of the formal mass and beautiful Westminster choral singing with the soulful singing of the Zimbabwean choir, was a perfect harmony and true testament to everything John was about.

After mass, people were directed to the Westminster Cathedral Hall, where talks were given by Anne Lander, a close friend of John's from Zimbabwe, (if you would like a copy of her talk please get in touch) and Professor David Crystal, an expert on John Bradburne's poetry. Anne talked personally about her and other friends relationships with John whilst he was at Mutemwa, whilst David's talk honed in on John



Tim Brigstocke (Chairman of JBMS), Anne Lander & Professor David Crystal

being ahead of his time, as an environmentalist talking about climate change in his poetry in the 1970's!

JBMS curated an exhibition of John's relics many showing for the very first time. In the exhibition were John's Franciscan habit, his rosary, headband, watch, many books and beloved type writer that he wrote so many of his thousands of poems on whilst in Africa.



Charles Yonge (John's nephew) with 2 Gurkha Officers



Thank you to all those who could attend the event. We were thrilled with the amount of people who came to celebrate with us. John clearly made a huge contribution to the world whilst he was alive and his legacy clearly lives on.

Thank you must also go to the JBMS team, without their help, none of the day's event would have been possible.

LEPRA COLLABORATION



We are pleased to announce that this year Lepra and JBMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding in order to collaborate on leprosy work in Zimbabwe. This agreement will allow Lepra and JBMS to develop the Mutemwa Care Centre as a model of best practice in the treatment and care of people affected by leprosy. The aim will be to raise the profile of leprosy in Zimbabwe and help train health workers from the region in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.



In August this year, Lepra UK sent experts to Mutemwa to train the health team, patients and the local communities in the practice of self-care of affected limbs and prevention and spotting symptoms of leprosy. Lepra are also helping JBMS get suitable, specialist protective footwear for the patients to prevent further disabilities and facilitate better mobility for the patients. The Lepra team whilst at Mutemwa mapped all the leprosy patients feet to be able to make suitable footwear to stop deterioration of their feet. This is an ongoing project and the plan is for Mr Khaja a local foot specialist to be trained up to be able to make specialist footwear not only for the patients at Mutemwa, but throughout Zimbabwe.

It is hoped that through Lepra's intervention, the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre will become a beacon of knowledge for health professionals in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, so that leprosy may be rendered a disease of no consequence, identified, treated early before any disability arises.

Today, leprosy is considered a disease of the past, however there are still 7 million people affected by the disease worldwide. Leprosy is completely curable if detected early. 16 million people have been cured of leprosy over the past 20 years, so it is possible that one day the world will be FREE of leprosy.

What Is Leprosy:

Leprosy is a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) which attacks the nerves. The disease is caused by a rod-shaped bacterium known as *Mycobacterium leprae*.

How Is Leprosy Transmitted?

Leprosy is not easily transmitted. It is believed to be transmitted via droplets from the nose and mouth. But unlike other infectious diseases it spreads only with repeated and close contact with the infected person.

Signs Of Leprosy:

The first signs of leprosy are usually a patch of discoloured numb skin. These patches usually appear slowly and do not cause pain or irritation. However, it is important not to simply diagnose from just looking at the skin patch and doctors will examine the patients thoroughly before diagnosing.

How Is Leprosy Cured?

If detected early, leprosy is completely curable through a course of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT), which was first introduced in the 1980's. MDT is a treatment course that lasts between 6 months to 1 year. MDT is free of charge worldwide, however many people in poverty stricken areas can't access treatment.

Impact Of Leprosy:

Untreated, leprosy causes long term damage to hands, feet and eyes, leading to paralysis, amputations, ulcers and blindness.

Prejudice:

Due to the misunderstanding and lack of information of leprosy, people affected by the disease can be left marginalised, excluded from their communities and experience prejudice. It is not only the physical effects of leprosy which can affect the patients but also the emotional and psychological effect of being shunned by their families and communities, their children being taken away from them and feeling totally isolated. They are separated and marginalised from society making them feel ashamed and worthless. The literal translation of Mutemwa means 'Cut off'. This was certainly how the patients were when John found them in the 1960's discarded by the Government and community and shut away.

Health Education:

Communities like Mutemwa are isolated and the community lacks basic health information and support. Lepra UK are going to try alongside JBMS to help promote this education of leprosy so one day hopefully leprosy will be a disease of the past!

WHAT A - COINCIDENCE? By Professor David Crystal



*Ray from the soul of a clarion call
Echoing back from the mountain wall;
Shape of a cavalry trumpet's note
Valiantly sounding o'er castle and moat;
Tritons' round music in stormy sea -
O the beam from a horn is sheer wonder to me!
'Tis the light of the Prophet on Sinai's height
And the brightness of Christ shining out through the
night;
The pledge of the Lord for our Heaven to be -
That Heaven He bought when He died on the Tree.*

Signs and wonders turn up in the most unexpected of places, and a totally trivial encounter can suddenly acquire fresh meaning. When it's a John Bradburne event, I'm never surprised to see some bees buzzing around, for instance. But what do you think about this one? Some background first. In over 40 poems and letters, John calls himself 'hornbeam'. Why? It was explained in the Winter 2003 Newsletter:

Once as John and his sister Mary stood on a high grassy slope leading down to a stream bordered on one side by trees, she asked: 'What are those trees called, John?' He replied 'I think they are hor..hor..hor.....' And as he slid down the slope doubling with mirth.... 'Hornbeam!' he cried. Ever after, Hornbeam stuck as a nickname for John.

In the Summer 2000 Newsletter, Jack Dunn suggested another origin of the nickname, going back to when John was working as a forester:

He said that he was carrying a log out of the woods and he asked what sort of timber it was. On being told it was hornbeam, he repeated the word, tripping and falling as he did so, so that what came out of his mouth was a rather shrill and long drawn out 'Hornbeam', to the merriment of all within hearing distance. And so he was stuck with that nickname, amongst the woodsmen anyway.

Either way, he liked to call himself 'Hornbeam' when writing to his closest friends, and actually gave it a spiritual dimension in a stanza in his long poem *Ut Unum Sint*. 'What is the meaning of Hornbeam?' he asks, and answers:

So ... in September I'm in Lancaster, about to run a day course about John. I hope it's going to go well, so I send a quick prayer for a successful outcome. Hilary and I are driving from our overnight stay in Cathedral House to the Thomas More Centre, where the course is to be held. Not knowing that part of Lancaster, we're following a car being driven by our hosts. There is to be a shared informal lunch, and as we haven't brought anything with us we ask if we can stop somewhere to pick up some sandwiches. 'There's a Spar shop just before we get to the Centre', say our hosts. So, we decide to call in there.

As we turn into the Spar car-park, there's a car about to come out, blocking our way in, so we have to turn right into an empty space outside some offices. We pull up in front of a side road, and there, right in front of us, is its name. Joyful laughter!



Fundraising

This Christmas 2019, we are fundraising for the refurbishment of the Clinic at Mutemwa.

The clinic serves both Mutemwa patients and the surrounding local community, making it a vital place. It is in desperate need of a complete refurbishment of plastering, painting, new beds, medical equipment.

To donate to this project please fill out the form on our items list or go online www.johnbradburne.com we really appreciate your support. Thank you.

New items for sale:

A new range of John Bradburne merchandise is now available, please see the items list for more detailed information. Amongst these are lovely votive candles with John's smiling face, Cotton Tote Bags, and Rosaries, all perfect for Christmas presents.

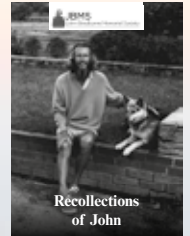


Hornbeam Booklet – JBMS have produced a short biography of John's life with images and anecdotes. This booklet is the perfect way of understanding John Bradburne's true story.

Price £7.00.



This booklet assembled from previous newsletters is a collection of stories and memories of people who knew John in Zimbabwe, the UK and elsewhere. These personal recollections are assembled with photographs some which have not been seen before. Price £4.00.



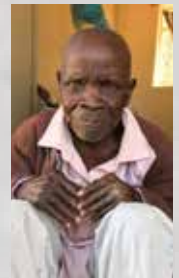
Thank you to all of you donors who have helped and continue to help raise money for both John's Cause for Sainthood and Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre. Without your support nothing would be possible, thank you.

We are very sad to report that Lawrence Vambe, a former JBMS Trustee passed away on the 14th September 2019 at the amazing age of 102 years old. He was born at the Jesuit Mission at Chisawasha, Zimbabwe. He trained to become a priest and subsequently a teacher, but eventually went into journalism. Lawrence was one of Zimbabwe's best loved and most widely respected journalists and authors. In 1953 he was made Editor in chief of eight papers for the African population in Rhodesia and Nyasaland (now Malawi). In 1958 he was awarded an MBE for his services to journalism. In 2001, Lawrence returned to the UK to spend his retirement with his wife, Mary.



We are also sorry to have lost a longstanding patient from Mutemwa, Mr Tsuruvai Sairos who was 100 years old, this year. He came from Malawi and came to Mutemwa in 1952 and was a resident whilst John Bradburne was at Mutemwa.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families of Mr Vambe and Mr Sairos.



Dates for your Diary

12-15 June 2020

John Bradburne Weekend at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria LA11 7NH

Please contact Sister Margaret Atkins on **01539 532288** or email **margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk** for more information.