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JBMS NEWSLETTER



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JOHN BRADBURNE'S CAUSE

The interrogations of the main witnesses who knew John was to have started in March, but unfortunately it has not been possible due to the Coronavirus lockdown. So, we are hoping that as things start to ease these interviews can now start.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Fr Gabriele Pesce who was acting Vice Postulator for John Bradburne's cause in Zimbabwe. The Holy Father has appointed him the Apostolic Nunciature in India and Nepal and we wish him the very best of luck with this exciting position.



Fr Gabriele Pesce

A new Vice Postulator has been appointed.

Fr Mgcini Moyo has all the power of the postulator in Zimbabwe to move things forward without too many problems. Thank you Fr Moyo for the big job ahead.

Didier Rance has been appointed the historical commissioner on John's case. The commissioner has to complete the identification and verification of all supporting documents from the archives relevant to John, by no means a small task. We thank Didier for his dedication to this task.

As part of the cause, David and Hilary Crystal, who have been instrumental in getting John Bradburne's poetry recognised worldwide have had to prepare the poetry database for reading by three theologians who will be appointed by the Vatican. This job has entailed every page in the collection being identified, labelled, and



Didier Rance

scanned. A mammoth task especially given the thousands of poems John wrote. The benefit is that now all of John's poetry has been scanned and it is able to be looked at online at www.johnbradburnepoems.com. Thank you Hilary and David for your commitment to John's cause.



David and Hilary Crystal

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

“John Bradburne shows all the characteristics of a person of self-forgetting holiness. He combines a palpable sense of intimacy with God and a passion for the least and poorest of God's children; he remained faithfully at his post to the very end, putting the well-being of the most needy and vulnerable before his own safety. His recognition by the Church as a person whose intercession could be sought and whose example should be followed would add to the ranks of the saints a deeply unconventional, deeply radical and sacrificial figure, whose life story speaks of the cost of service and reconciliation.”

Dr Rowan Williams,
Former Archbishop of Canterbury

“I am pleased to offer a few words of encouragement to all those who long, pray and work for the cause for canonisation of the Servant of God John Bradburne. His remarkable life, with its series of unexpected turns, highlights the way that the Holy Spirit can and does lead human beings to find their true calling and way of life in the midst of many uncertainties. John Bradburne's life, leading him to search trustfully for the path God had marked out for him, will be a source of inspiration for all those who are searching for the truth of God in their lives today.”



Rt Rev Bernard Longley
Archbishop of Birmingham

“The Servant of God, John Bradburne, showed remarkable dedication to following the will of the Lord, throughout his life. His heroic obedience to his discernment of the Lord's will for him came to its fulfilment in his outstanding service of the people suffering from leprosy in Zimbabwe. He laid down his life for their sake, murdered in 1979. If it is now the will of the Lord that he be declared a Saint, then his example will be an inspiration to many, and he will be the first saint of Zimbabwe. Let us pray that the Lord's will be done!”



Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

“Through baptism, we are all called to become saints. Holiness is found in many different people and their witness to the Gospel. John Bradburne certainly lived a unique life and portrayed the eccentric and quirky side of human nature. Reading his life story certainly made me stop and think. It is a challenging story and hopefully his sanctity will be recognised as an example for all of us to follow. The needs he sought to respond to are still very much with us in our world today. May we have something of his generosity of heart within our own discipleship of Jesus.”



Rt Rev Dr David Oakley
Bishop of Northampton

Thank you so much to you all for your ongoing support during the past few months with the pandemic. As you will know small charities have been enormously affected and we are so grateful to our wonderful members for their continued devotion to John and the work that JBMS does. We hugely rely on your kindness and generosity, so please do continue to support us as much as you can, we still have much work to do. Thank you.

MUTEMWA WATER TANK STORAGE



Dear friends, family and members of the John Bradburne Memorial Society,

We would like to say a big “Thank You” to you all, for the wonderful support that James and I have been given and shown, towards our 134 miles sponsored canoe paddle for Mutemwa water storage tanks this last summer of 2020, on the River Stour. Thank you for your best wishes, your loving thoughts and words of encouragement, and prayers. Thank you too for all the sponsorship and donations that came through to our Just Giving page, which is now closed. Thank you for the sponsorship that came through directly to JBMS via Kate Macpherson the secretary, which is open for any late donations, (please make a note to Kate that your sponsorship is for the ‘Water Storage Tanks’ for her records, thank you). Your support has been uplifting and wonderful, and we are very grateful for your kindness and generosity. John would be thrilled as I am sure he is, as he watches over us all, and his beloved people, his friends at Mutemwa.

So here we are, this is what you have helped us to achieve for the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe and John.

With your help and support, we have managed to reach a grand total far beyond our JustGiving aim of £3,000. In fact, we have raised **£5,400** in donations and sponsorship. Hooray for you all,

hooray for our John B, and hooray for Mutemwa as we go forward in supporting the patients and residents living at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre.

JBMS will be organising the buying of the tanks, including the transporting of them to Mutemwa. Then they will need to be put in place onto elevated structures, either brick and cement or strong metal structures. This will all be done as soon as possible, and we are hoping to have them in place by the end of this year. We need to get these tanks up and ready as soon as possible, for the rains are not so far away. The rains will hopefully be starting in November and will carry on through to May, on and off, with January usually being the wettest month. The dry season in Zimbabwe is usually from around June to the end of October, with October being scorching hot! JBMS will keep us posted on their progress, as things go forward.

With much love and gratitude

Teresa and James

Teresa Yonge is the niece of John Bradburne who recently gave a zoom talk and James Perkins is the partner of Teresa's daughter Nicola.

TWAM & WELL4AFRICA

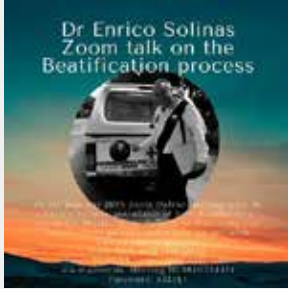


JBMS has been lucky enough to have our grant application accepted with TWAM, Tools With A Mission. They are supplying our community at Mutemwa with various kits of refurbished tools, such as sewing machines, builder's tools, carpentry kit, agricultural implements etc. This equipment will provide the people living at Mutemwa with materials badly needed to improve the quality of their lives and jobs, that they would never have been able to access. Thank you so much to Linda at TWAM for her support and we look forward to getting the container of tools at the end of the year.



After JBMS's appeal for water tanks at Mutemwa, we were approached by the Secular Franciscan Order in Lithuania who are running a project called Well4Africa. The incentive of this project is to guarantee safe drinking water and to install wells in Africa. JBMS will be collaborating with the OFS National Council in Zimbabwe who will monitor this project and will hopefully be able to find a water vein and install a borehole with a pump to supply a pure source of drinkable fresh water for our community. We are so grateful for the OFS support and pray that with their help we will be able to provide the people at Mutemwa with access to safe, drinkable water which has been a constant problem over the years.





ZOOM TALKS

As we have all faced the relative hardships of the coronavirus crisis and have felt our individual weakness and vulnerability at this time, JBMS wanted to reach out to those isolated at home to give some comfort.

So we started Zoom online talks in July with Chris Robson talking about the relevance of John Bradburne and English literature.

The following month we had a talk by Dr Enrico Solinas, postulator of John's Cause on why he felt chosen by God for the job and where John's cause is.

On 31st August we heard Didier Rance, French historian and writer on John Bradburne, A Holy Fool for Christ.

Teresa Yonge, John Bradburne's niece, hosted a talk about Mutemwa, John and Love at the end of September.

We will be continuing the online talks so please tune in:

On 21st October, Chris Robson will be doing a zoom talk on John Bradburne in War.

We will be continuing zoom talks, so please look out for more information on our facebook page or contact us for more information.

COVID 19

To date Zimbabwe has seen 7838 cases with 228 deaths according to the Zimbabwean government website.

The residents at Mutemwa have had no cases of Covid 19 as they have been in strict isolation, which we hope will remain the case and we are praying to John to watch over them and keep them safe.

Zimbabwe is looking forward to the rains coming which will fill the dried-out dams, and rivers and water the growing produce that is so vital for the people to live on and sell.



LECTIONARY READINGS WEBSITE

David Crystal's new Lectionary Readings website provides an audio recording of the Mass readings for every day in the year. First and when used Second readings, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and Gospel.

You can find it at www.lectionaryreadings.co.uk



Its proving helpful to priests streaming Mass online, as it adds vocal diversity to the service, as well as saving their voices! But it's being used much more widely, by people wanting to hear readings privately, as part of a 'home liturgy'. One lady listens to them daily through headphones while out jogging! Any donations to the site go to JBMS.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS

This year JBMS has created a 2021 calendar with images of Zimbabwean and English flowers with quotations from John on each page. £6.99

Christmas cards – Don't forget to buy your Christmas cards from JBMS. Just £4 per pack of 6, all proceeds go directly to the Mutemwa Care Centre. Thank you for your support.



MUTEMWA

We are very sad to report the death of a long-standing patient at Mutemwa, Gogo Tina. She single handily looked after her grandson, Joseph (pictured here) after his parents died and he was orphaned. May her soul rest in peace, she will be missed.



Some very generous donors have funded a new stretcher bed and wheelchair for one of our long standing disabled residents, Simon. This will go an enormous way to making Simon's life more comfortable. Thank you.





JOHN BRADBURNE 41ST ANNIVERSARY

This year to celebrate John's 41st Anniversary since his death on the 5th September there were sadly no pilgrimages flocking to Mutemwa or partaking in a night vigil on top of Mount Chigona, due to the restrictions of Coronavirus. Instead a live mass was streamed from Mutemwa by Radio Chiedza, with Fr Linus taking the service with the residents at Mutemwa and a homily by Bishop Mupandeseke. To view the service please go to facebook and look up Radio Chiedza's videos and you will find both Bishop Mupa's homily and the John Bradburne Anniversary Celebration.



JOHN'S CENTENARY, JUNE 2021

June 14th 2021 celebrates John Bradburne's Centenary, 1921-2021. Our plans were to hold a 100th year celebration at Lancaster Cathedral. However with everything up in the air with Covid 19 and no large events happening, we are praying that in the early part of 2021 we will be able to reassess and see what will be possible to commemorate John's 100 years. We will of course keep you posted on this and be praying to John to make things possible.

FUNDRAISING

Walk from London to Mutemwa 7,718 miles

HELP US CONVERT EVERY MILE VIRTUALLY INTO £

TARGET - £7,718.00

We are fundraising for the cost of solar panels for Mutemwa Care Centre, to provide heated water and electricity for all our community living there. From the sun in Zimbabwe, we want to use this to reduce our carbon footprint to help the environment. We also want to save money on electricity bills for the care centre and make sure the patients can get hot water when they need it.

Have you ever wanted to walk to France, hike through Spain; how about climb Mount Everest, jungles of the Congo basin, Atlantikka mountains between Niger and Cameroon? It could potentially be dangerous, hot, expensive and difficult to do in line with social distancing.....

But we have a solution – a big challenge for the end of 2020. Can you help us collectively get to Mutemwa and convert each mile to £'s. We are looking for supporters to make as many local steps and miles as they can to get us to Mutemwa.

The target distance as a group is 7,718 miles (12,420 km). **That's £7,718.** This is our goal!

How long will we take to get there and how much we raise is down to all our supporters.....

Here are a few ideas of how you can take part:

Running and walking – Decide on how many steps, miles or minutes of walking or running you want to do either daily, weekly or monthly. It could be 3 miles a day, 100 laps around the block, 100km spread across one month or simply running a 5k one morning! Choose the challenge that best suits your ability and schedule. A great way to get the whole family active or walking with your work colleagues on lunch break. Please don't forget to ask your company if they can match fund.

Cycling- Decide on how long you want to cycle each day, week or month – this could be done on an exercise bike at home or outside.

Stair climb- Set yourself a challenge to run or walk up and down your stairs each day – if you're up for a challenge, you could climb the equivalent height of Mount Everest or Ben Nevis on your stairs. Make sure you record after each stair climb and keep friends and family updated with your progress.

How it works:

- 1) Please contact us by email: info@johnbradburne.com phone: 07979 187498 or post: JBMS, Po Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB and let us know that you will be taking part in the challenge.
- 2) We will then register you on our justgiving events page and send you a link.
- 3) You can then use that link to start fundraising.
- 4) For those that need some help, let us know. We can send you a sponsorship form. So give us a call.
- 5) Don't forget to celebrate your success! Let us know how you have got on. Email or post on social media your photos.
- 6) We will let everyone know on where we are on the route to Mutemwa.

Get in touch

We would be delighted to support you with your fundraising or with any questions you may have, please get in touch with us at 07979 187498 or info@johnbradburne.com

Let all your friends and family know what you are doing and don't forget to share!

EASYFUNDRAISING:

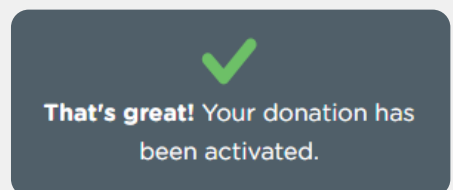
As more and more of us are turning to online shopping as opposed to the risk involved going to the shops. JBMS have set up an easyfundraising page meaning every time you shop online, we receive a small percentage to our charity. It's simple to do and every little bit helps.

1. Go to: www.easyfundraising.co.uk
2. In the box 'Search for a Cause'
3. Type: John Bradburne Memorial Society
4. You will come to the cause page for John Bradburne Memorial Society
Press Support the Cause
5. You now must create an account
6. Press Continue with email
Register your name, email and password
& press Create my account

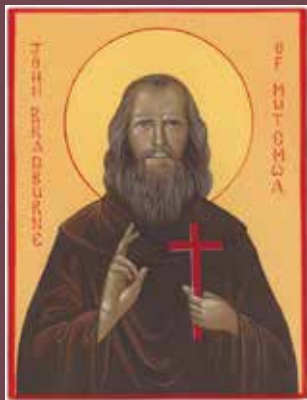
Add the donation reminder (This means that when you are shopping online, a reminder will pop up to ask if you would like to donate to the JBMS cause.

You have 2 choices –

1. Press shop online & raise every time you want to shop, so for e.g. you can enter a retailer's name like Marks and Spencer and it will take you to their own website or
2. If you have the donation reminder, then simply shop in the usual way online by entering the website of the shop and a donation reminder will pop up like this:
3. Press Get Donation and this will pop up and automatically donate after you have purchased your items



NEW MERCHANDISE



Brother Richard Maidwell has produced a limited edition run of John Bradburne icon copies on Sapele wood sourced from sustainable forests.

Size: 265mm by 200mm by 20mm.

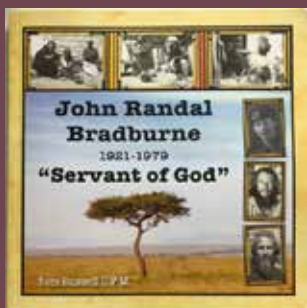
They are numbered on the back and come with a certificate of authentication.

They are for sale at **£80 plus £4.95 p&p.**



A new cd, The Thought Expressed. Songs and hymns inspired by the poetry of John Bradburne. Composed by Philip Berthoud, John's Godson and sung by Mahrey Berthoud.

£10 per cd.



Fr Tom Russell OFM has created a new book, 'John Bradburne, Servant of God', that reflects on his life drawing upon Bradburne's mystical poems to appreciate his profound spirituality and his message for our time.

£10 per book

All items are available to buy on our website www.johnbradburne.com.
Call 01568 760632 or email info@johnbradburne.com for more information.