A black and white photograph of John Burt Myers, a man with a long, dark beard and mustache, and shoulder-length hair. He is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved button-down shirt and is seated, with his hands clasped in his lap. He is looking slightly upwards and to the right. The background is a collage of various images, including what appears to be a map or a collage of small photographs.

Issue:  
Summer 2021

# JBMS

**CELEBRATING JOHN'S  
100TH BIRTHDAY**

# CENTENARY EVENT



*A Centenary is a moment to reflect on someone's achievements. This one is particularly significant as it coincides with the movement for Beatification. Saints provide us with models to copy, as far as we can. In John Bradburne's case, we have a layman whose cause is being promoted, in itself a most unusual situation, as the vast majority of saints are priests, nuns, etc. The Zimbabwean Bishop drew special attention to this in his homily announcing the Cause last year.*

*What aspects of John's life should we copy? His achievement in caring for the poor is the obvious one, and relates to many current issues that are making headlines, such as cutting foreign aid, looking after immigrants. His achievement as an early eco-warrior is less known, but resonates strongly now. You can see his poems about preserving the environment, condemning plastics, etc. Also notable for this day and age is his advocacy of the importance of reflection, solitude, and the like in the face of modern distracting devices. He talked about the telephone, radio, and TV, but if he were alive now, I've no doubt he would be writing a lot about the dangers of the internet and social media.*

*And then, of course, his achievement as a poet. The quantity of his writing still amazes people, when it is pointed out. And the quality of his writing is increasingly being appreciated, with strong and positive comparisons being drawn with Hopkins, Herbert, Chesterton, and others.*

By Professor David Crystal.

This year marks John Bradburne's 100th Birthday. The Centenary celebrations will take place at the Holy Name of Jesus Church, Oxford Road, Manchester, from 2pm on Saturday September 25 2021.

Bradburne's poems are being set to music by world class composers, such as Frederick Stocken, Gareth Treseder, John Le Grove, Kim Porter and more. These compositions will be performed at the event by The Bury Choral Society, The Zimbabwean Community Choir England & Wales, with music played by the Didsbury String Quartet, Maxine Molin playing on the harp and the Band of the Brigade of the Gurkha's to name but a few.

There will be specifically commissioned poems by Sally Read and Maria Apichella with poetry being read by Professor David Crystal and David Tibet.

The Bishop of Lancaster, the Right Reverend Paul Swarbrick will be giving a talk on John and the Bishop of Salford, the Right Reverend John Arnold will be saying prayers.

The event will start at 2pm on Saturday 25th September and will last 2 hours with an interval where refreshments will be available and a chance to see the unveiling of the latest icon of John alongside an exhibition of John Bradburne's relics.

Admission will be by ticket only. For more details and to find out more about Bradburne's remarkable life and this special and unique Centenary Celebration. [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com).



A Mass on 14th June 2021 commemorating John's 100th Birthday will be live streamed on Radio Chiedza's Facebook Page, all welcome to tune in.

[www.facebook.com/radio-chiedza](https://www.facebook.com/radio-chiedza)

## CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE

JBMS members, Alex Walker and Gavin Young are helping JBMS run a pilgrimage climb up Cross Fell in Cumbria, a mountain that John Bradburne frequently climbed whilst growing up at Skirwith, Cumbria.

The climb will take place on Saturday 11th September 2021 from 11am. The climb will take approximately 5-6 hours, you must have moderate fitness, but no mountaineering skills needed. Prayers are being said by the Bishop of Lancaster, The Right Reverend Paul Swarbrick at the top of the Fell.

To book your place and make your donation, please visit [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com) and go onto our events page or please call 07979 187498 to reserve your spot.

# ROYAL PATRON



JBMS are thrilled to announce that His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie has recently been appointed as The John Bradburne Memorial Society's Royal Patron.

Prince Ermias was born on 14th June 1960 (thus sharing the day of the nativity of John Bradburne) in Addis Ababa; as the only son and heir of His Imperial Highness Prince Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie; and of Her Imperial Highness Princess Mahisente Habte Mariam.

Prince Ermias was brought up with a deep attachment to the Christian Faith; and was educated at Olde Ride Preparatory School; and later at Haileybury School in England, where his mother, Princess Mahisente retained a Royal Residence. The Prince later graduated from the University of California; and later received the diploma of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston. The Prince speaks fluent English, Amharic, and German; and has some knowledge of French and Italian.

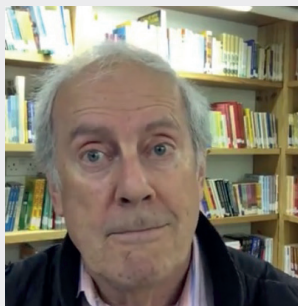
On 15 July 1993, Prince Ermias was appointed the President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia. The Prince has sought to direct the Crown Council of Ethiopia as a spiritually, philanthropically and historically centred body; ensuring a special emphasis on religious, educational, and cultural matters; thus seeking to preserve the ancient Christian traditions of the Ethiopian people, and their literature, unique customs; and historic way of life.

In May 2019 Philip Bonn, the Prince's envoy, met the Head of the Zimbabwe Tourist Authority; through a chance meeting at his local Roman Catholic Church. In September 2019, Philip was subsequently invited to Zimbabwe, by the current Government where he met with the Foreign Minister, the Minister of the City of Bulawayo, the Minister of Sport, the Zimbabwe Ambassador to Rwanda, and with the Permanent Secretary for Tourism. He later visited Mutemwa; and spent a memorable afternoon with the Franciscan Brothers; and with the people who are resident there.

In February 2021, Prince Ermias was graciously pleased to accept the offer to become Royal Patron of the John Bradburne Memorial Society at the special request of the Envoy and Aide-de-Camp of His Imperial Highness, ITPC Commissioner Philip Bonn, a Knight Grand Cross of the Imperial Order of Emperor Menelik II, and long-standing friend of the Prince. His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias has recently been invited to lead a Royal Visit to Zimbabwe, subject to the travel restrictions of the current COVID-19 Pandemic. He intends to be an active Royal Patron of the John Bradburne Memorial Society.

# POETRY PROJECT

This year marks John Bradburne's Centenary. In celebration of this, JBMS has launched the 100 day poetry project. For 100 days leading up to John's birthday on 14th June 2021, a different reader will be reciting one of John's poems every day. There is a selection of prominent figures, from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Charles Moore, Gyles Brandreth, Richard E Grant and many supporters. These video's can all be viewed on our John Bradburne Memorial Society YouTube Channel, please do go and look and subscribe to our JBMS Channel, it's free to view.



## POETRY WEBSITE

The John Bradburne poetry website [www.johnbradburnepoems.com](http://www.johnbradburnepoems.com) that Professor David Crystal created has a new audio section, where you can download poems of John reciting his poetry. Please do have a look and hear the man himself reading his wonderful poetry.



## RIP

Sadly, over the last year, many of us have lost family members and friends during the pandemic. JBMS would like to pay tribute to all those supporters who have passed away. David Paynter, Susan Bannon, Bruce Wilkinson and Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue to name just a few. They will be sorely missed but are now at peace with Our Lord and John.

# WATER TANKS

You may remember that last year in March 2020 when the pandemic hit, Teresa Yonge, (John's niece) had planned to row in her canoe the length of the Thames from her local river, the River Stour to the River Thames, camping along the Thames. However, COVID put a stop to that, so plans had to be changed. Instead she rowed with James Perkins the distance of the River Thames, 134 miles along the River Stour in East Anglia. The aim of this fundraiser was to raise money to buy water tanks for Mutemwa Care Centre, to be able to store water and ensure that the residents at Mutemwa have a more stable and reliable access to water. Amazingly Teresa raised a whopping £5,024 which enabled JBMS to buy 4 enormous water tanks and erect them at the Care Centre. Thank you to all the wonderful supporters of this fundraiser. It has made a huge difference to the community at Mutemwa.



# LANDSCAPE PROJECT

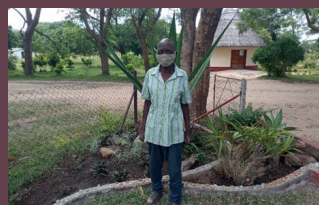
Reverend Molly Chidziya from the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe responded to one of the Care Centre's needs which was to landscape the clinic area. John's desire was to provide dignity to people living with leprosy, so paving the clinic area has meant that the patients can move freely with their wheelchairs and other walking aids around the centre as well as it looking so much neater.



*Mr Douglas walking around the landscape*



*Mr Paul, Mr Gweshe and Mr Givemore*





# GURKHA, CHINDIT. SAINT?

By Captain Alex Macpherson

*"Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." C.S. Lewis.*

At the age of twenty, after completing his officer training at Bulford, John Bradburne embarked on the SS Mulberrra from Liverpool to Bombay in February 1941 to join the 2nd battalion of the 9th Gurkha regiment in the Malayan Campaign of World War II. Bradburne commanded a mortar platoon and fought courageously in the disastrous and costly strategic withdrawal south through the Malayan jungle. British High Command had vastly underestimated the Japanese who swept through the Malayan peninsula to capture Singapore. Winston Churchill described the fall of Singapore (8-15 February 1942) as the "worst disaster and largest capitulation in British military history."

A small group of survivors from Bradburne's Company, isolated and cut off at the Slim River, elected to escape through the jungle in small groups. Lieutenant Bradburne travelled with a fellow officer, Captain Hart, south-west through 40 miles of jungle without food towards the coast. Covering 3 to 6 miles a day, Bradburne contracted cerebral malaria, usually fatal without

rapid treatment and after a month's march reached the coast. The two took a sampan boat and set out for Sumatra, 60 miles west. Caught in a typhoon they were shipwrecked, met with a group of Highlanders and forced the owner of another sampan to take them to Sumatra, arriving on 15 February, the day of Singapore's fall. Delirious with sunstroke and malaria; Bradburne convalesced at Medan as the ascendent Japanese advanced on Sumatra. Bradburne and Hart just managed to board the WWI destroyer HMS Tenedos as Sumatra fell. On route to India they fortuitously transferred to HMS Chitral before the Tenedos was sunk by the Japanese.

Bradburne arrived in India and he served in both 3/9th and 5/9th Gurkha regiments. In 1943 he joined General Orde Wingate's Chindits. Wingate informed Bradburne he would recommend him for the Military Cross for his Malayan escape but shortly after Wingate died and Bradburne never received the MC. Bradburne took part in Operation Thursday, which was to be the greatest airborne operation of the war before Normandy. Waco CG-4 gliders were to land 140 miles behind Japanese lines in the Burmese jungle to establish two strongholds; Piccadilly and Broadway, from

which to conduct deep operations against the enemy. Believing the Piccadilly landing site to be compromised, all gliders headed for Broadway. 32 gliders out of 67 successfully landed at Broadway and only half of the 539 men who made it to Broadway were uninjured and combat effective. Many of the 3/9th Gurkhas, including Bradburne set to work to improve the landing strip for reinforcements. The Chindits harassed and hampered the Japanese war efforts and proved that the Japanese were not an invincible foe. Importantly the Chindits proved that special operations behind enemy lines could be conducted in the brutal jungle environment. Bradburne served with the Chindits in the Pacific theatre against the Japanese until the end of the war. He fought courageously with his platoon; not only against the Japanese but also against more debilitating foes in their environment; malaria, dysentery and disease.

The war had a profound effect on John in many ways; he was not a conventional officer, his desire was not for promotion; after a spell as adjutant he requested to command a mortar platoon again and fight on the ground. He did not embrace pedantic military regulations and norms but he was unorthodox and eccentric. He was scruffy, grew a beard, embraced any chance to listen to Brahms and Bach, wrote prolifically and had a reputation for climbing trees and playing a wooden flute. He had a fascination with religion and immersed himself in the beliefs and rituals of the Gurkhas and of the many cultures he encountered in Malaya, Burma, India and the Pacific Theatre. John was passionate about and captivated with the environment. The exotic birds, animals, flora and fauna as well as the landscapes, jungles, rivers, seas and mountains provided a necessary distraction from the many horrors of war he far too often encountered. Orde Wingate, also unorthodox and eccentric, was convinced that surviving and enduring in the extremes of the jungle environment was more to do with mental fortitude than any scientific or biological factor. There are convincing and rational arguments for both sides of this notion. However, the Chindits did suffer very heavy losses, which is not surprising given not only

their extremely high risk operations but that they were pioneers in arguably the most inhospitable military environment; the jungle.

John survived countless times against the odds; the fall of Singapore, a month long jungle escape and evasion, cerebral malaria, shipwreck in a hurricane, the Chindit Operation Thursday; gliding into the Burmese jungle and conducting clandestine deep penetration missions against the Japanese, torturous jungle marches laden with 30kg of kit and numerous battles and engagements with a formidable enemy. The main source of his moral fortitude was his growing Catholic faith which remained and pervaded his continuing extraordinary and remarkable life. John emulated the type of leadership that Jesus displayed; that of service. He shared the hardships with his men instead of opting for a staff job. He took on the most high risk operations and led his men through mine-fields and many lethal encounters with the enemy, buoyed by his religious faith. Chindit leaders are not renowned for being orthodox; Brigadier 'Mad' Mike Calvert and Major General Orde Wingate were to some, at best 'eccentric' and to others of 'unsound mind'. John can be perceived in both veins, however, the extreme and repeated psychological and physical trauma these men encountered throughout the war, it is not far fetched to consider that today they could be diagnosed as having symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder.

**'Serve to Lead'** is the motto of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. John's leadership however was about serving others and this is most evident in the last ten years of his life in Africa. After the war he found it difficult to adjust to civilian life and had a number of jobs and pursuits in England and Italy, including writing poetry, for which he has attained a Guinness world record for being the most prolific poet. John sought solitude and purpose and found both at the Mutemwa Leprosy Settlement in Rhodesia, where he devoted the last ten years of his life to caring for the leprosy patients there. **John lived an extraordinary life and provides a much needed example of what true service and leadership is.**

# WELL4AFRICA



The aim of "Well4Africa" social initiative is to install wells in African areas where the Secular Franciscan Order is present in order to bring water to thirsty people and provide the local population with clean and fresh water, which would allow women and children to avoid walking long distances to bring this important and essential resource from sources which, in a large number of cases, are poor, scarce and contaminated.

The new "Well4Africa" water project has recently started in Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre, in Mashonaland, the eastern province of Zimbabwe. As the John Bradburne Memorial Society is based on the common Franciscan charism, "Well4Africa" has decided to fund the Mutemwa water project and to ensure stable supply of clean water to the community which was so dear to John Bradburne.

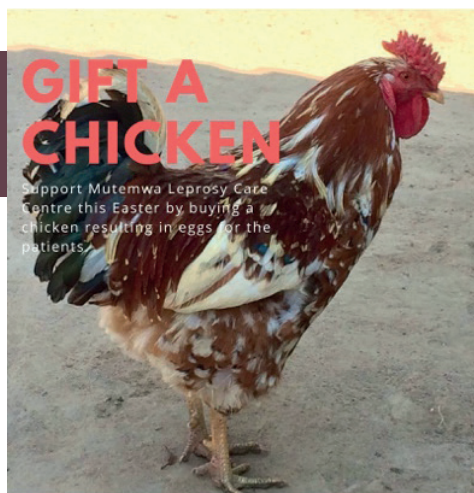
Secular Franciscans of Canada have organised the fundraising which is being used for this Mutemwa water project in Zimbabwe. May the Lord bless all "Well4Africa" benefactors for their incredible generosity!

[www.well4africa.eu](http://www.well4africa.eu)



## GIFT A CHICKEN

This Easter, JBMS launched Gift a Chicken project. A £25 donation will buy a chicken, food & supplies for the whole year for the community at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe. Resulting in the gift of over 300 eggs per chicken for the Care Centre. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this cause. So far, we have raised enough money to buy 130 chickens, but we still need to get to at least 250 chickens. If you would like to donate please go to [www.justgiving.com/campaign/giftachicken](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/giftachicken) or send a cheque payable to JBMS, reference Gift a Chicken or call us to make payment over the phone - 07979 187498. Thank you.



Support Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre this Easter by buying a chicken resulting in eggs for the patients.

**CHICKENS ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE MUTEMWA COMMUNITY AS THEY PROVIDE EGGS, FOOD AND GENERATE AN INCOME.**

Help JBMS today by donating just £25 to buy a chicken with its food and supplies for a whole year. The perfect Easter gift this year. Go to [www.justgiving.com/campaign/giftachicken](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/giftachicken)

# BEATIFICATION

At present the Beatification process for John is still in the initial stages. He has been declared 'SERVANT OF GOD', the next step is Venerable. To get to this stage a document with all the testimonies are put together and sent to the Congregation of Saints in Rome. Testimonies are being gathered in Zimbabwe. However the pandemic and restrictions has meant slow progress. There are still 25 people who need to be interviewed in Zimbabwe alone, which will be ongoing covid permitting.

How the postulator, Dr Enrico Solinas of John's Cause was chosen. I learned the story of John Bradburne in 2018 when the personal secretary of the Archbishop of Perugia, Dr. Amilcare Conti, gave me the book "Vagabond de Dieu" by Didier Rance to read. Dr. Conti had been asked to write an intervention for the first international congress which took place in March 2017 at the University for Foreigners of Perugia on the figure of John the poet, mystic and martyr and he was very impressed. Professor Rosanna Masiola, who at the time taught at the University for Foreigners and was a friend of Celia Brigstoke, John's niece, also participated in the realisation of this conference. Professor Masiola asked for a private interview with Dr. Conti explaining that Celia had been trying to open John's cause for canonisation for many years, but found all doors closed both in England and in Zimbabwe.

So it was after that in April 2018 I was contacted by Dr Conti to become the postulator of John's cause. I felt in my heart that it was God who wanted this, even though I didn't think I was absolutely up to the task, as I didn't speak and understand English well. But I have learned over the years that when God chooses a person he does not do it for the skill but because that person is the right one to carry out His Will. I remember being struck by Celia's affability and sweetness and at the same time by her great faith in the Lord. She was sure that if I accepted the post of postulator we would be able to open the cause and so it was! I accepted and was appointed Postulator in May 2018.

In July of the same year I went to the UK where I collected many testimonies of people who had



Enrico & Colleta

*personally known John. I had just time to meet Celia the day before returning to Italy and when I saw her, so sick, her eyes hit me and filled with tears as soon as they met mine. Those tears were the best gift that I could receive for the effort that shortly thereafter I would have to face to open the cause that took place on 5 September 2019 in Mutemwa in Zimbabwe in front of 15,000 faithful, many leprosy patients, with all the Bishops of that country, 480 priests and an immense emotion for the first cause of canonisation that was opened in Zimbabwe. On 16th August 2018, I received a message from Kate, Celia's eldest daughter who told me of her mother's death. I can say with extreme frankness and sincerity that it was Celia's faith that made me accept this assignment. I repeat the words of St. Paul: "I can do everything in him who gives me strength".*



Celia & grandchild

# MAIZE CROPS

The community at Mutemwa have had a very successful crop this year, 15 tonnes of maize. This has just been harvested, so they will have supplies throughout the year ahead, as this is a staple food for the community and they will be able to sell it to create an income.



## GIFTS THAT GROW

Donate just **£10** to buy a **Mango Tree**.

We are trying to raise enough money to be able to plant **100 Mango Trees** in honour of John's 100th Birthday this year at Mutemwa.

The mango tree produces nutritious fruit with essential vitamins. Mangoes can be dried, stored and eaten all year round and then can be sold at market, earning the Mutemwa community a vital income.

Please donate today just **£10** to plant 1 Mango Tree to support those living at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre. You can donate over the phone 07979 187498, on our website [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com) or by sending a cheque payable to JBMS or on JustGiving at [www.justgiving.com/campaign/jbmsmangotree](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/jbmsmangotree).



# MARY CAMPBELL 1919 - 2005 SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON JOHN

**Mary Campbell was John's eldest sister and wrote in her private memoirs about her childhood.**

*John's character was dynamic, his argument controversial, his movement uncertain and he did not care for convention, but his way of life was ruled by anything other than ordinary.*

*There was a uniqueness about his personality which struck those who met him as memorable. He stood out as looking different. Not everyone could take that. He had enemies as well as friends. Here was diversity within conformity, for he conformed utterly for his faith and trust in God, whilst living a life quite outside the norm.*

*During his school age years, John thought of himself as a kind of medieval troubadour – foot loose and fancy free and wherever he roamed he usually carried an instrument, a recorder, flute, bugle or clarinet.*

*Beside the troubadour image, he also fancied the Shakespearian role of the fool, for which there is*

*a part in so many of Shakespeare's plays. The fool had in fact the ear of the King or Master, he was his confidant, his mentor, his advisor. He occupied a very privilege position.*

*I was always happy in John's company, because he was so funny, never malicious or wounding, but he could always pick out the essential quirks of people and make a joke, this is a talent. However, he was not blessed with a great gift of tact. In fact, he was always putting his foot in it!*

*Right up until 1969 when John finally settled at Mutemwa, he was questing, ultimately, he felt there would be a resolution and answers would be found. John had great conviction that he would not be killed in Zimbabwe and by many accounts he took enormous risks, which never deterred his belief in the fact that there was a path to be followed and a cause to enter upon to make sense of living. It took him twenty years to get there.*

JBMS has published with the help of Rosanna Masiola and Renato Tomei, John Bradburne's Biography in Italian, called *Una vita in breve* which is based on Didier Rance's original biography. This is the first book we have published in Italian, but it will be the first of many, with John's 100 Poem's Book being produced in Italian next. It is the hope of JBMS, that spreading the word on John's Life in Italian, that other countries will follow suit, so we will have a John Bradburne World Series of Books.



# FREDERICK STOCKEN



Frederick Stocken is a British Classical Composer ([www.frederickstocken.com](http://www.frederickstocken.com)) and long standing supporter to JBMS, and is kindly composing a piece for the Centenary event on the 25 Sept at The Holy Name Church in Manchester. The composition Frederick has composed is based on Lauds of Ladyday poem. The text is a reflection on the Annunciation and the first performance will be in September, but Frederick plans to send it to choirs afterwards as a suitable piece for Christmas concerts and Carol Services, which is another way of spreading the word on John's poetry. Frederick is happy to compose this piece as a gift to John on his 100th Birthday, but would be hugely appreciative if any JBMS member would be prepared to privately commission this piece. Please contact us directly on [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com) or 07979 187498.

## JOHN BATESON SPRING EXHIBITION

One of our loyal members, John Bateson has a wonderful Spring Exhibition of his work, a percentage of his takings from the exhibition will go to JBMS, [www.johnbatesonpaintings.co.uk](http://www.johnbatesonpaintings.co.uk)

John has created an image mixed in gouache, pastel and charcoal, that will be for sale on our website. The image is based on Matisse's 'The Dance'. You will see the people John is dancing with are members from the leprosy centre, who John tended, they are all moving around a mango tree and on the fruit you can see bees. John himself, is dressed in shorts, and is wearing his familiar straw hat and straw basket which appears in a number of the photographs. The image has been reproduced on cards and there are 6 cards in a pack for £6.00 plus postage.

These cards can be ordered from our items list enclosed or on our website [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com)



# COVID VACCINATIONS

Amazing news that all the patients at Mutemwa have been given their first COVID vaccination, SinoVac. We are so grateful to the local District Health Officer in Mutoko for making this happen for the patients. Let us hope this protects the community against any further covid related illnesses.



## TOOLS WITH A MISSION, TWAM

TWAM have very generously sent a container of agricultural tools, carpentry tools, sewing machines, to Mutemwa. The container to Zimbabwe is on its way across the ocean. However, due to global shipping issues, it has been delayed at sea and is currently due to reach the port of Beira in Mozambique on 4 June. It will then be transported by lorry to Zimbabwe and has to pass through customs at the border. This means it will probably not arrive in Harare until late June. We will keep you updated when the much needed tools arrive at Mutemwa. We are very grateful to Linda and the TWAM team.

**TWAM**  
Tools with a Mission



*Linda from TWAM with the container*

# JOHN BRADBURNE ICON

A wonderfully generous donor has privately commissioned a large icon of John Bradburne by the well known iconographer, James Blackstone of Saint Dunstan Icons ([www.dunstanicons.com](http://www.dunstanicons.com)). James has been studying under Aidan Hart.

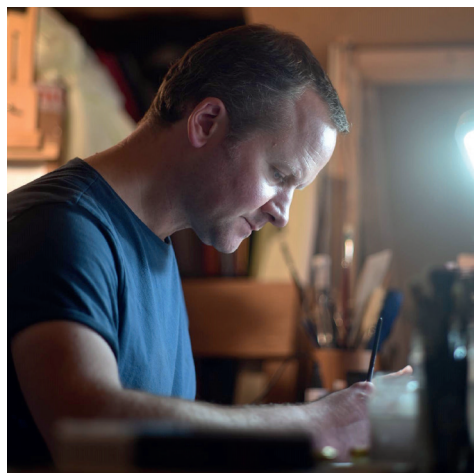
Over time, James has lived and worked in a residential social setting with emotionally and behaviourally disturbed children, as a portrait painter, in a contemplative monastic community, as a teacher in London secondary schools (at St Dunstan's College in Catford, and at St Paul's School in Barnes), in university lay chaplaincy (as Decani Scholar at Clare College, Cambridge) and as an ordained minister in the Church of England (in the Dioceses of Southwark and London), among other things.

He has been secretary to the Society for Ecumenical Studies in the UK and has been a participant reporter in a World Council of Churches Faith and Order Consultation.

James studied for a first class undergraduate degree in Theology and Religious Studies at Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he was also awarded the Teape Prize for the study of Indian religion. He completed a doctorate on the

thoughts of the Orthodox saint Gregory Palamas at Clare College, Cambridge.

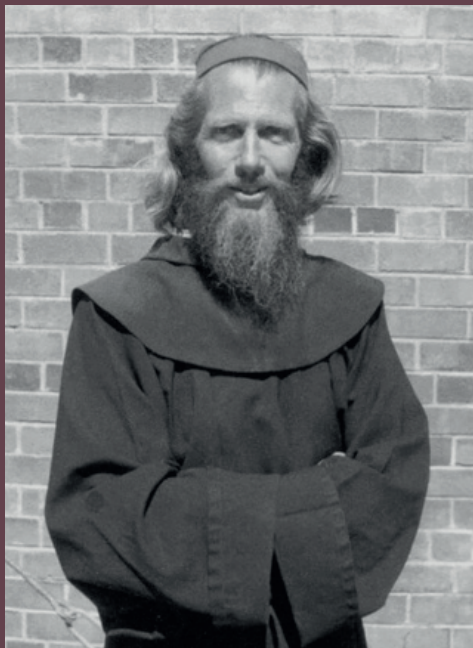
The icon of John will be revealed at the Centenary Event in Manchester on 25th September; however, there will be reproductions for people to buy their own icon of John for their home, church, a gift for someone etc. These items will be available in our items list and website in September.



Brigid Birney has very kindly donated this beautiful painting to JBMS that she has painted of a bumblebee and cornflower, which we have made into cards. Brigid came across John Bradburne many years ago, she was attracted by his happy and peaceful countenance. She loved his life story, and was very drawn to how he lived so simply in happiness and peace, always trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and even though he had many emotional sacrifices during his life he always was full of joy and exuberance for life and love. John's love of nature and poetry also appealed to her and inspired her to paint this picture of the bumblebee in honour of John's Centenary. Bee Cards are £6.00 (pack of 6) and can be ordered online, over the phone or via the items list enclosed.



# INTERCESSIONS



*When I took a free leaflet, at the time, my sister was going through a dreadful situation with her husband, who was separated from her, as he was taking heroin, living in Italy and about to fly back and move back into her home, his plane flight was booked. We were all very worried about this. I started praying John's novena in hope that his plans would change, that he would remain in Italy and the flight cancelled! During saying the novena on the subway in Glasgow, I was drawn to look down at a fellow passenger's socks, they were covered in bees! A bee buzzed on my car windscreen another day, then on another day walking home, a flat was lit up and the wallpaper was covered in bees! Amazingly at the last minute my sister's husband got a job in Italy, and the flight was cancelled. I know this is only by the grace of God due to the most powerful intercession of John Bradburne, who I regard as a very great Saint.*

**Alice Montgomery, Glasgow, Scotland.**

*I was born in Gateshead only 60 miles from where John was born in Skirwith. I used to drive to his church, where his relatives are buried, and as a form of respect lay Lenten palms on his family graves. John may have been lying thousands of miles away, but I always felt him near me, especially when irregular incidents happened. There was one time when three eagles hovered over our heads, so far from their nests in Scotland. Another occasion was when I made my visit to meet the Bishop of Carlisle's representative surveying the building of the Skirwith church and deciding if repairs should be done. I approached the men, discussed John with them and gave them a short copy of John's life. They promised to give this to the Bishop, which they must have because the church was completely repaired shortly afterwards, despite the great expense.*

**Robert Errington, Gateshead.**

*Give thanks to John's intercession. My second limited visa to remain in the UK has been granted. John's intercession has seen me cross many bridges when hope was gone.*

**Modwena Mukonyora**

*I wasn't sleeping anymore because of the pain from my shingles and needed to take medication at 4am because of the pain. Last year's John Bradburne's Anniversary Mass was to be broadcast at 4am (US time), so I got up and watched the Mass, fell asleep, and woke up completely pain free. Pain threshold was about 9 out of 10 to suddenly 0!*

*I got shingles right after starting to learn about John. I thought it was poetic to get a nerve/skin disease when learning about a martyr who loved people with leprosy! Being healed of the long term pain of shingles was far more than I can ever thank John for.*

**Deanna Williston, USA**

## Donating via telephone is easy.

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