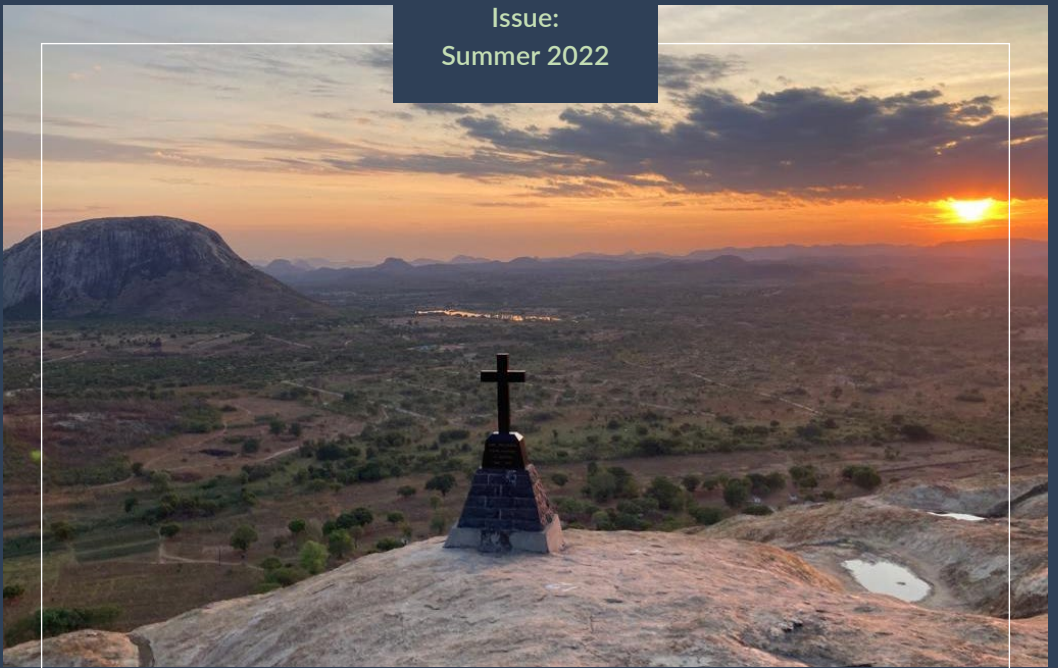


Issue:  
Summer 2022



# JBMS NEWSLETTER



Published by The John Bradburne Memorial Society  
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# WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer 2022 Newsletter. We give thanks to the unfailing generosity of our supporters enabling JBMS to continue to support those living at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe as well as promoting John Bradburne's extraordinary life and writings.



## NEW MUTEMWA ADMINISTRATOR

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Aquinamary Guri has joined the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre as the new administrator.

Aquinamary brings extensive experience to this role, having joined Mutemwa from the Mashambanzou Care Trust, where she held the position of Human Resources and Administration Officer, from February 2019 to 31st December 2021. She also has much experience in Human Resources Management, Administration, Security and Safety, and Compliance.

Please join us in welcoming Aquinamary to her new assignment and position and may God Bless her in her new role and chapter in her life at Mutemwa.



# RIP HEATHER BENOY

Heather Benoy died on Christmas Day 2021, in the family home that was built in 1910 where she lived all her life. She was a devoted, loyal friend to John during his 10 years living in Zimbabwe.

She was born on 10 May 1940, one of four children. Her gentle, artistic mother, Peggy, came from a well-established Presbyterian family. Her father Maurice Beaumont had a successful career and was awarded an MBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours on 2 June 1962, when he was Secretary of Defence during the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. At the time of UDI he was a minister under Sir Edgar Whitehead, the last Prime Minister of Rhodesia. Colonel Benoy refused to serve in Ian Smith's government, saying he had sworn allegiance to HM The Queen, and was subsequently put under strict surveillance.

Heather inherited her parents' many fine qualities. She was known as a musician, composer, teacher and performer. She is remembered with great affection by many people in many countries who are still warmed by memories of her generous spirit, her vitality and humour.

She was a great friend to John Bradburne and introduced him to the leprosy patients living at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in 1969, not long after he arrived in the country, where he lived and worked until he died in 1979.

Heather composed beautiful music, usually religious; she played several musical instruments and had a very fine voice. She was a convert to Catholicism, like John, and had an extremely strong faith. They remained firm friends; the bees that always seemed to be around didn't bother either of them as they enjoyed poetry and music. Father John Dove recounts John's life in 'Strange Vagabond of God'.

In his eulogy, Fr David Harold-Barry SJ recalled Heather saying that it was at Mutemwa, caring for those with leprosy, that John found himself. "It was there that he struggled to bring light where there was darkness." He remembered meeting Heather at Silveira House, the Jesuit Centre, some fifty years previously and described her as 'restless' and 'provocative' with a quest for excellence.

Never much impressed by rank, wealth or station, Heather doubtless challenged many she met in her long career as an educationist, but she was always encouraging and patient with children. She was instrumental in having the vernacular language restored in primary schools in Zimbabwe, saying to be creative children must be encouraged to think and express themselves in their mother-tongue.

She was indeed 'a great teacher', as Fr Harold-Barry said. Her forward-thinking classroom techniques inspired a series of radio programmes and influenced the national policy on education. She was often called to the education department before taking over curricula development as head of technical education after Independence.

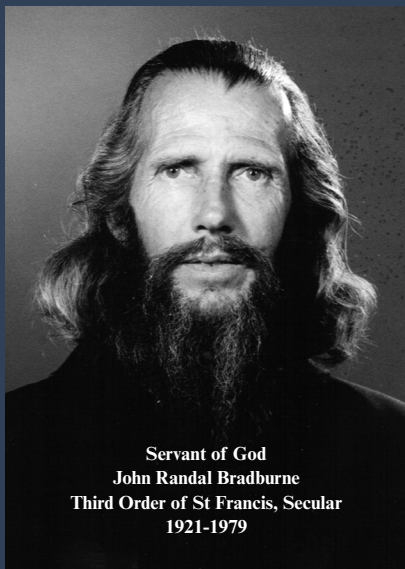
After leaving the ministry of education, Heather worked with Sudanese child soldiers in Darfur and then as a consultant to several international charities.

As a friend said, "If Heather had lived in Jesus's time I am convinced she would have been the 13th disciple, and the only female one at that."



*By Caroline Thornycroft, friend of Heather's.*

# BEATIFICATION PRAYER CARD



Servant of God  
John Randal Bradburne  
Third Order of St Francis, Secular  
1921-1979

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.

If you have received thanks through John's intercession please email the Postulator Enrico Solinas: [enricosolinas@gmail.com](mailto:enricosolinas@gmail.com)

The John Bradburne Memorial Society  
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With ecclesiastical approval from Most Rev Robert Ndlovu  
Archbishop of Harare

To order your copy of the John Bradburne Beatification prayer card, contact us on 07979 187498 or email us at [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com)

## JOHN BATESON LINOCUT

One of our loyal JBMS members has created this linocut print of John Bradburne. The simplicity and vibrant colour captures both the essence of Africa and the spirit of John. You can purchase this image in cards from our website [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com) or via our items list enclosed. They are priced at £6.00 per pack of 6 cards and envelopes. To view more work by John visit [www.johnbatesonpaintings.com](http://www.johnbatesonpaintings.com)





# CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021



Thank you to all you generous donors who contributed towards our Christmas Appeal in supporting all the children living at Mutemwa to go to school for one year. Amazingly we have been able to pay for all the children's school fees for one year, whilst also buying them new school shoes and uniforms. The families and children are absolutely thrilled by the generosity and support from our JBMS Community. Thank you once again for your unwavering loyalty on this appeal.

A special thanks must go to Sister Claris who is the Education Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Harare who has arranged a bursary for Adeline (one of the children from Mutemwa) to be educated at All Souls Mission Catholic Boarding School.



Sister Claris



Adeline

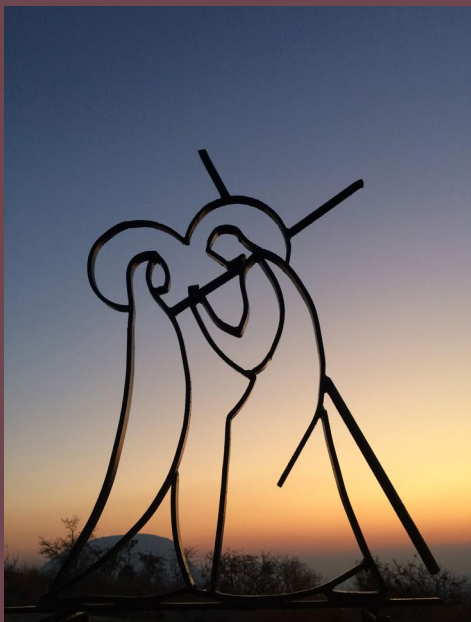
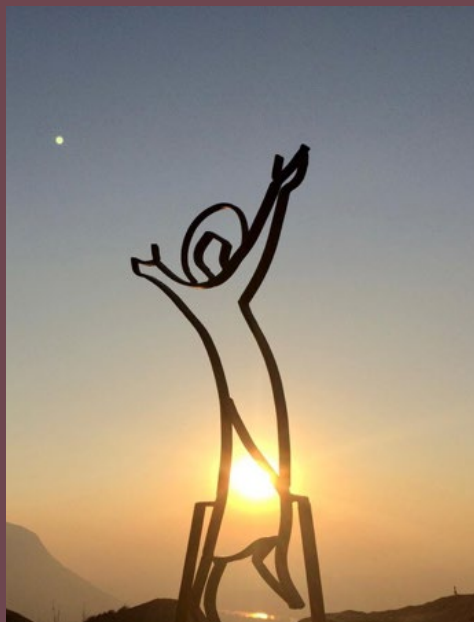
# RIP ARTHUR DA SILVA AZVEDO

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death of the artist Arthur da Silva Azevedo. Arthur died at home with his beloved wife Olga and three children by his side at 3am on Wednesday 6th April 2022.

Arthur was an extremely gifted sculptor, living in Harare with his wife and family. The simplicity of Arthur's work is inspiring and shows his own faith and love of God through his own creativity, which inspires so many.

Arthur was commissioned to create the 'Stations of the Cross' at Mutemwa on Chigona Mountain some years ago, they continue to inspire the pilgrims who come to Mutemwa to pray. These beautiful 'Stations of the Cross' have been placed on the journey up Chigona mountain, starting at the bottom, while ascending to the top. They have become something very special at Mutemwa and are a great support for those coming to pray and 'walk with Christ'. Thousands of pilgrims come to climb up Chigona at Mutemwa throughout the year, following in the footsteps of Christ's Passion of the Cross in Zimbabwe, along the same path and route that John himself would take, to go and pray and be still, and at one with God.

Arthur's faith and creativity will live on through his work, particularly at Mutemwa, and we will always be grateful for this part of Arthur's Spiritual creative legacy.



# ARCHDIOCESE OF HARARE

We are so grateful to Agnes, the Health Coordinator at the Archdiocese of Harare who helped in organising new pillows and cases to all the patients living at Mutemwa. As you can see from the photograph, they were overjoyed with these donations. Thank you, Agnes and team, for your continued support of Mutemwa.



## RIP RONICA

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Ronica, a long-standing patient at Mutemwa died on Saturday 23rd April 2022.

Ronica was a most loved member of the community at Mutemwa. She was a happy soul, and throughout her battle with cancer she managed to be cheerful and make jokes with those around her.

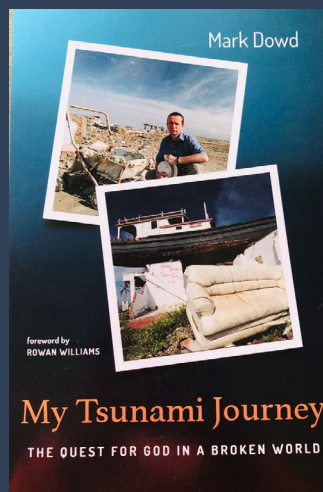
Ronica will be sadly missed and yet we are grateful that she is now out of all the discomfort and pain. She was a wonderful example of natural joy and how she just got on with living, accepting it all including her illness with such dignity.

Our loss is Heaven's gain, until we meet again.





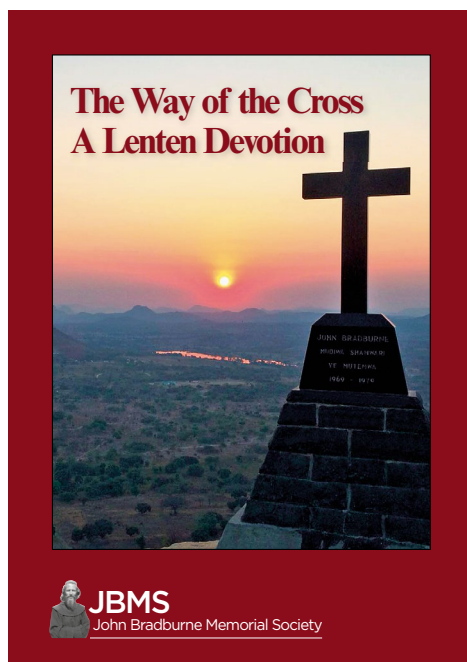
JBMS member, Mark Dowd a former Dominican Friar turned BBC journalist and presenter has just released his latest book, 'My Tsunami Journey, The Quest for God in a Broken World.' If you have ever been troubled by the question of why a loving God allows suffering in the natural world, you may want to read this book. Mark journey's thousands of miles to speak to Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and Christians following the devastating tsunami in 2004, delving into why in the wake of such a disaster some people lose their faith whilst others appear strengthened by it. John Bradburne also makes an appearance in the book. Available to buy from Amazon.



This Easter JBMS produced The Way of the Cross. A Lenten Devotion. The Stations of the Cross takes a prayerful journey, meditating on Christ's journey to the cross. The meditations and prayers feature reflections on injustices in our world today. Theme's such as homelessness, poverty, suffering, racism, prejudices and many others are featured with the hope that we might work for justice and peace with God's grace.

Radio Maria England recorded live JBMS speakers from around the world reading each of the stations on the radio over the Lent period. To listen to this recording use the below link:

<https://anchor.fm/radio-maria-england/episodes/Stations-of-the-Cross---John-Bradbourne-Memorial-Society---2022-e1h1lqb>





# JOHN BRADBURNE'S POETRY

Poets always need two perspectives: what they write about and how they write about it. In John Bradburne's case the first perspective presents a real challenge, simply because he wrote so much and ranged so widely in his themes. There are over 5000 poems in the online database, and they deal with a remarkable number of topics. The poetry is replete with literary allusions, especially to the Bible, medieval devotional writers, Shakespeare, and other major poets. It is full of references to religious music, especially plainchant, early English music, the writers of hymns, and the great composers. It reflects a period in modern history when Communism was still in the ascendant and civil war in Rhodesia was at its height, so there are frequent reflections on international as well as national politics. Several poems also deal with local political issues arising out of the at times strained relationships he had with the Rhodesia Leprosy Association.

His spiritual thinking moves with facility between Catholic, Anglican, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions, and requires familiarity with several branches of theology, especially those dealing with the Trinity, pastoral care, the sacraments, liturgy, and the place of Mary in Christian thought. A truly detailed knowledge of Old and New Testaments is essential. You need to know Latin and French. You have to appreciate natural history in general, and ornithology in particular, for many of his poems provide detailed descriptions of the landscape, fauna, and flora of the places he visited, especially in England, Israel, and Zimbabwe. And it is important to have a grasp of the nature of Hansen's disease (leprosy) and the way it was treated in the 1970s, as many poems are about the leprosy patients of Mutemwa and the way they lived. English literature has never provided us with such realistic accounts of the effects of leprosy, or such vivid character descriptions of individual lepers, as we read in the poems about his little community.

Despite all this variety, anyone randomly choosing poems to read from the online database will soon develop a sense that he has three main themes. The nature of the Trinity, The centrality of Mary, The necessity of ecumenism.

In 2003, Cardinal Martins, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, observed: 'The saints are like beacons; they show men and women the possibilities open to human beings' - and, one might add, especially to lay human beings, a point that was strongly made in the homily at the formal launch of the Cause for Beatification in Zimbabwe in 2020. Martins goes on to quote Simone Weil: 'It is not enough to be holy, it must be the holiness demanded by the present day: a new holiness, unprecedented.' In his poetry, John Bradburne is just such a light for the present day. In their 5000 different ways, his poems are beacons illuminating the nature of truth.

by Professor David Crystal



# ODE TO SUMMER COMING IN

1974 BY JOHN BRADBURN



*From morning until night  
Sun sings: The Lord's my light;  
From night until the morn my Lady Moon  
Shines down upon my lay  
Of neither straw nor hay,  
Sing ho for a mat of reeds her freed buffoon!  
Fact concrete is my floor,  
Love lacked fulfills no law  
But lack love not I now, God wot, who backs my tune.*

*The Piper calls the tune,  
Mid-winter is mid-June,  
October is the prober of the time  
When rober is the Spring  
Of the red masasas' fling,  
October probes for Summer's robe sublime;  
Seem seasons upsidedown  
But the theme's a gleam, unbrown  
Soon shall the grass become! sum up the bees my  
rhyme:*

*'Om mani padme hum,  
Soon shall the Summer come,  
Gay fragrant jacarandas jilt no joy;  
For Apostle of the Franks  
(Saint Remigius) give thanks,  
They took to The Faith that shook the wraith and  
gave employ  
True to three thousand chiefs  
And it frees from false beliefs  
And the cuckoo sings for The King of Kings, though a  
backward boy!'*

*Swarm thirty thousand strong,  
Augment the cuckoo's song,  
Here in Mashonaland he backward sings:  
Not 'cuckoo' but 'oocook'  
He chucks at brother brook  
And sister river shivers as he rings  
Roundly but less with glee  
(It seems to minor me)  
A world (aflame for The Holy Name) than in English  
springs.*

# BREAKING THE SPIRAL



On 14 June 2021, we celebrated a 100th birthday with a difference. The centenarian wasn't there. He was already in a 'far better place' these past 42 years. John Bradburne was shot dead near Mutemwa on 5 September 1979. He was such an extraordinary person that his name soon became known far and wide. In thanksgiving for his life, we celebrated the Eucharist with a Covid crowd of about 80 near the hut from which he was abducted. I recalled the times, fifty years ago, when we used to sit near this same hut while John regaled us with his observations on life. We shared a lasagne cooked by Dr Luisa Guidotti in a vain attempt to put some flesh on John who tended to live on lactogen and coffee – and chocolate when he could get it!

If you are unfamiliar with John's story, he was an Englishman who lived through terrifying action during the second world war in the far east. On returning home, he sought to live out the inspirations he had received during his first 25 years of life. This led him to a monastery in the South West of England. But the life of a monk was not what he was called to and he began to search again and came to discover his happiness in silence and solitude – a life he pursued for almost another 25 years – until he came to Mutemwa.

There he found he could combine his intense search for God with a profound service of the most abandoned and vulnerable of people – those living with leprosy. The last decade of his life were dedicated to these two goals which were really one. The world being the way we have made it, he soon became embroiled in jealousies, misunderstandings and open hostility – just like Jesus. And, like Jesus, he was killed.

The way he pushed out the frontiers of what it is to be human has attracted people ever since and so it was fitting that we celebrate his birthday into this world. This 'world' was not far away even at our celebration. Our particularly Zimbabwean world manifested itself: The technical people, who were to broadcast the event, were more than three hours late and when they did arrive made no apology to the people living with leprosy or anyone else. They just seemed to presume everyone would wait for them. Forty years ago I would have got irritated and impatient. Today I find I just accept it. 'This is Zimbabwe, get used to it!' Well, I have got used to it, me and all the people of the country. But am I proud of, at last, learning to 'go with the flow'? I should not be. None of us should. The lack of accountability, the taking people for granted, is now a spiral of disrespect that has got out of hand. We have created a jungle of selfishness where the weakest are of no account. John gave his life 'pushing back' against this lava flow which is engulfing us.

Somehow, we have to break this spiral. Otherwise, it will break us.

By Father David Harold Barry SJ





# FRIENDS OF MUTEMWA

We are so grateful to all our members for continuing to support JBMS over the last few years where we have all struggled either financially, emotionally and/or physically. We are so appreciative of your unwavering support in helping us to continue the work we do at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre and in spreading the word on John Bradburne's extraordinary life.

Special thanks must go to the **FRIENDS OF MUTEMWA** headed by Nyarai Chiguvare, who are dedicated volunteers based in Zimbabwe who work tirelessly in helping to continue supporting the Mutemwa community. The Friends of Mutemwa have been such a ray of light in difficult times and have enabled a better life for those living there. They have provided such wonderful gifts for the patients, from new mattresses and chairs for each person, to Christmas hampers and a big Christmas party for all the community, to the wonderful Easter Feast celebrated, along with much needed expensive medication for those suffering. JBMS is truly indebted to your kindness and spirit in carrying on the good work at Mutemwa that John Bradburne started, giving dignity and love to each patient.



Patients enjoying their Christmas Lunch



## NEW CD

John's Godson, Philip Berthoud, has started work on his next album which, like *The Thought Expressed*, is also inspired by his Godfather.

This album, to be entitled "In the Footsteps of the Vagabond", will be quite different to *The Thought Expressed*, drawing inspiration from traditional music of England (particularly Cumbria, Norfolk and Devon) and Zimbabwe. It will be very much a family project with Philip's wife, Mahrey contributing vocals and recorder, their son Louis (who last year achieved his master's degree in music) providing drums and percussion and their daughter Rhianna (who is just completing her degree in Illustration) bringing her artistic skills to the cover and booklet.

Philip himself will be playing guitar, fiddle and mandolin. He will be using all of his 30 years' experience in the traditional/folk world for this project. As with *The Thought Expressed*, 100% of profits will go to Mutemwa. The album will be out by the end of this Summer, so watch this space for more details.



# FROM WALSINGHAM TO MUTEMWA

Around September 5th, 2021, Zimbabwe was in lockdown so it was not possible to fly out and be at Mutemwa for John's anniversary, so I headed up to Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham instead, to commemorate John's anniversary, in the same year of his 100th Birthday. I had recently been inspired by friends talking about Our Lady of Guadalupe, and what evolved from our chat was a three-day, early morning kneel walk, along the Pilgrim Way at Walsingham ending at the Shrine while praying the Rosary to Our Lady of Walsingham, interceding for Her help, to take John's cause forward.

The travel ban was lifted to Zimbabwe soon after my Walsingham visit and so on November 4th, I flew out to Zimbabwe, with a small statue of Our Lady of Walsingham to take to leave at Mutemwa. Three Zimbabwean friends came with me to climb up on top of Chigona with the statue, and we prayed the Rosary, around the stone altar on top of Chigona to connect Walsingham to Mutemwa, through the Rosary and this little statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, which I have now placed in John's tin hut.

When I came back to the UK on Jan 21st, I went back up to Walsingham and put a few pieces of Chigona granite rock at the foot of the Walsingham Abbey archway, in the Abbey grounds. I did the same on Chigona, and placed a small piece of flint stone from the foot of the Abbey archway, and dropped it down a deep crack of granite, on the top of Chigona very near the Memorial Cross for John, so the two, are now symbolically linked and connected through two small flint and granite stones!

May the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and Mount Chigona at Mutemwa, continue to uplift and inspire the pilgrims that go to these two Holy places, and may Walsingham and Mutemwa always be connected through these two small 'swapped over' pieces of Walsingham flint and

Chigona granite, along with our prayers and devotion to the Three in ONE and our Beloved Mother Mary, who John was so devoted to. I think John would have liked this 'linking up' bringing Our Lady of Walsingham statue to his tin hut, and a piece of ancient Abbey flint to where he would go and pray on Chigona, then taking a piece of grey course granite rock from the top of Chigona, back to Walsingham Abbey! After all, Walsingham is very near to where John grew up and where he went to school at Greshams in Norfolk. Who ever would have thought it!

By Teresa Yonge





# JBMS

John Bradburne Memorial Society

## JOHN BRADBURNE PILGRIMAGE WALK 2022

Saturday 18th June 2022 at 11am

Come and climb Cross Fell (John Bradburne did), the highest mountain in England outside of the Lake District. Just 5 miles from Skirwith where John Bradburne spent his early childhood years.

The climb will take approximately 7 hours, (4 hours up and 3 hours down) with a distance of 16km in total, with a 700m ascent. We will take the Eastern route up the Fell, passing Ranbeck Farm and Wythwaite to Grumpley Hill and up to the source of the Tees. You will need good walking boots and a good level of fitness to manage the climb.

Prayers will be said by the Bishop of Lancaster, The Right Reverend Paul Swarbrick at the top of the Fell.

Parking will be in the field opposite St Lawrence's Church, Kirkland, CA10 1RN. Please make sure you leave in good time to start at 11am promptly for the climb.

To book your place and make your donation, please visit [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com) or call Kate on 07979 187498 to reserve your place. All proceeds of this pilgrimage walk go straight to supporting our friends living at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre.



The John Bradburne Memorial Society

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UK Registered Charity No. 1046483

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Prior to the Pilgrimage Climb at 11am, JBMS will be holding teas and coffees in Skirwith Parish Hall where there will be display boards on John Bradburne's life. The St John the Evangelist Church at Skirwith where John's father, Thomas Bradburne was vicar, will be open for people to look around between 9-11am.



### NOVENA PRAYER TO JOHN BRADBURN

Dear John you allowed your life to be guided by the Holy Spirit and by Mary your Queen and Mother, and with great generosity you searched unceasingly for God's will and love. In so doing you pleased Him.

We therefore ask a favour through your intercession, from the Most Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for whom you laid down your life that:

.....  
Not our will but His be done:

Amen

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be...

### A PRAYER FOR THE UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION OF THE SERVANT OF GOD JOHN RANDAL BRADBURN

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we adore you profoundly. You chose John to be a witness of Your Love for the poor and unwanted. You inspired him with a knowledge and love of the true faith. You gave him a great understanding of the mystery of Your own life, as well as an extraordinary love for Mary, Your Mother, which gave him the desire to spread Your love everywhere.

Knowing that if we ask the Father for anything in the name of His Son, Jesus, He will grant it, we humbly ask that John's virtuous life will be recognised and that he will be declared 'Blessed', by the present Holy Father, Pope Francis.

We also pray for a special favour through his prayer and the intercession of Mary our Mother that:

.....  
And if that which I ask is not in conformity with God's Glory and the greater good of my soul, be pleased to grant me what will secure the attainment of both. Amen.

Hail Mary (*three times*)

### NOVENA PRAYER FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CAUSE OF JOHN BRADBURN

Heavenly Father, You led your humble servant, John Bradburne, along the various paths, guiding him to accept the faith taught by the Catholic Church, and finally through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to devote the last ten years of his life to the care of the lepers at Mutemwa in Zimbabwe.

You rewarded his life-long search for God, by granting him his three wishes. You showed him your special Fatherly Love by granting him a deep understanding of the mystery of Your own divine life. You endowed him with an extraordinary love for Mary, the Mother of Your Son, Who gave Her to us as our Mother, at the foot of the Cross. Love for the Passion of Your Son was seen in his devotion to the Mass, and in his union with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. His love for Mary was shown by the daily recitation of the Rosary, and in saying or singing Her Office.

We thank You for granting him these favours, and we humbly pray that one day he will be recognised for his virtuous life, and will be declared Venerable by the present Holy Father, Pope Francis.

John is an example of self-sacrificing love for the poor and unwanted. Zimbabwe needs a Saint to intercede for the needs of its people and for the salvation of the country.

We thank You, Heavenly Father, because it pleased You to grant him his wish to work with the lepers, a life which was crowned by granting him his second wish in choosing to die rather than to abandon them. His third request was granted after his death, through an incident which was understood to be the sign of Your own personal love for Your humble servant, and those he cared for.

O Mary Immaculate, hear our prayer and grant our petition.

Our Father, Hail Mary (*three times*), Glory be.



For those wanting to ask John Bradburne's help through his intercession, the above is the Novena Prayer to use.

Please let us know if you receive any graces or intercessions or indeed would like a copy of the novena sent to you.

Look at the wonderful work the amazing children living at Mutemwa have done. They have been picking up the litter from around the grounds surrounding the care centre. Our very own eco warriors caring for their environment. We should all follow their lead in looking after our planet.



Here are some photographs of some of the residents and staff living at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre. There are still patients living there who were at Mutemwa when John Bradburne was warden in the 1970's and knew him well.



Costa Geza



Rodina Kasiyapfumbi



Sheiller Zaranyika  
(Care assistant)



Tazvitya Mapondera,  
Elton, Chiedza and  
Shamiso Chideme (cook)



Jessy Brown (John's friend)



Steven Jim & Norman Kazingizi



Gidion Edson



Bauren Mapuranga (John's friend)





Freddy Kamupira & assistant  
(Maintenance)



Angeline Zinyuke &  
Scolette



Winnet Kazemebe  
(cook)



Colleta Mafuta (John's friend)



Simon Gwashavanhu

Thank you so much to the wonderful JBMS member, Deanna Williston from USA, who has been an amazing volunteer dedicating her precious time helping JBMS set up our YouTube Channel.

For her 50th Birthday this year, she very generously asked her friends and family to donate towards buying the children who live at Mutemwa bicycles to ride to school. She raised an enormous amount of money and we could buy the children bikes, which they were overjoyed with. Thank you, Deanna, for your love, energy and dedication to JBMS, you are amazing.



Look at our John Bradburne Memorial YouTube Channel found on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

On there you will find lots of videos ranging from readings of John's poetry, to the Stations of the Cross reflections, alongside talks on John's life and work and even singing by John himself. Please Like and Subscribe and tell others about the channel. It's a great resource of interesting videos.



# LETTERS OF SUPPORT



## Archdiocese Of Harare

Cnr Fifth Street / Livingstone Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe

26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Kate Macpherson  
The Secretary  
John Bradburney Memorial Society  
England

Dear Kate

**Re: Letter of support**

I write this letter of support of all activities being done by John Bradburney Memorial Society to further John Bradburney's Cause that will lead to the Beatification and Canonisation of the Servant of God, John Randal Bradburne.

Since the official opening of John Bradburney's Cause on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Mutemwa in Mutoko, great enthusiasm have been shown among the People of God and official activities are in progress especially the required interviews. The advent of Covid – 19 in a way stalled the process, but with the relaxation of Covid – 19 protocols, the process is slowly gaining momentum again.

I am reliably informed that the Commissions put in place are busy at work. The whole process might take a bit of time but by the grace of God, the process will come to a fruitful end.

I urge people of good will who are in a position to help this Cause to do so wholeheartedly.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ Robert C Ndlovu  
Archbishop of Harare



## **Society of Jesus in Southern Africa**

*Servants of Christ's mission in Southern Africa, united in heart and mind, collaborating with our partners in mission in serving a faith that promotes reconciliation and justice.*

I write as the Jesuit Provincial Superior of the Southern Africa Province of the Society of Jesus to support the process, already underway, which will hopefully lead to the beatification of the Servant of God, John Randal Bradburne, who was killed like a martyr near the Mutemwa Settlement for people living with leprosy on September 5, 1979. There are a number of Jesuits who knew and revered John. One was his friend of many decades, Fr John Dove SJ, who had been a soldier with him in India during the Second World War. The two Johns, who were very different in their vocations, supported each other as they explored what they should do when the war was over. They chose very different paths but kept in close contact. Among other Jesuits who knew John, were Bro Laurence Makonora, Fr Fidelis Mukonori and Fr David Harold Barry. And there are many Jesuits in Zimbabwe who can vouch for the devotion that has grown up spontaneously with respect to John Bradburne over more than forty years.

Writing, therefore, on behalf of the Jesuits in Zimbabwe and indeed of Southern Africa, though John is still not known well beyond Zimbabwe's boundaries, I would like to add my voice to support the cause of John going forward to the dignity of being officially held up by the Church as a modern witness to the gospel. Indeed, John manifested the Beatitudes in his poverty of spirit and the actual poverty of Francis of Assisi to such an extent that the Franciscan Superior in Zimbabwe at the time used to say, "John is more of a Franciscan than the whole lot of us put together!"

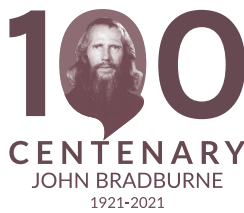
With kind regards,

Yours sincerely in the Lord



**Fr Leonard Chiti SJ**

Provincial Superior, Southern Africa Province of the Society of Jesus.



## **Support the John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS)**

As we emerge from the most challenging period of a generation, please consider supporting our work with the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe in honour of John.

JBMS work tirelessly to be able to relieve people at Mutemwa, who are suffering sickness, hardship and distress from leprosy or other causes, through the provision of supplementary food, medicines, medical care, and shelter, with the objective of improving their conditions of life.

**To learn more about our work visit [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com)  
or call us on 07979 187498.**

**To see the vast collection of John Bradburne 's poetry visit  
[www.johnbradburnepoems.com](http://www.johnbradburnepoems.com)**

Published by The John Bradburne Memorial Society  
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UK Registered Charity No. 1046483

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