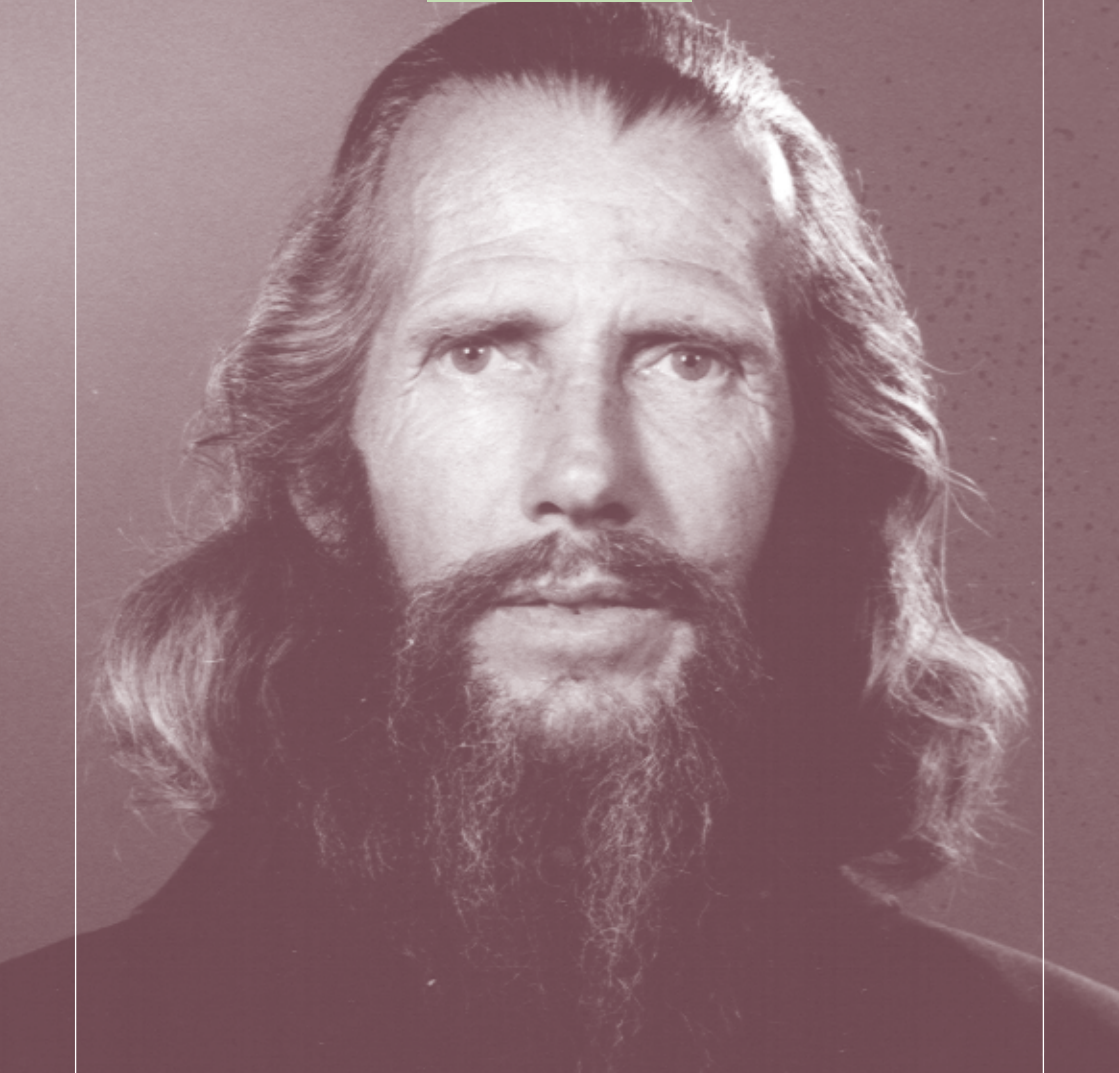


Issue:  
Winter 2022



# JBMS NEWSLETTER

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Winter 2022 JBMS Newsletter. What a year we have had at JBMS and Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre. Despite the current climate where we find ourselves in conflict throughout the world, recovering from the pandemic, cost of energy, rising living expenses, global warming, change of Monarch and political unrest, you our loyal supporters have helped JBMS navigate the challenges, through your love, prayers and support. Thanks to your unwavering donations we have managed to maintain our commitment to Mutemwa and supporting those living there, as well as promoting the Cause for Beatification of John Bradburne.



## RIDE FOR LEPROSY

A huge thank you to Alex and Jono for their amazing effort in completing the Ride For Leprosy this August. With thanks to your support we have managed to raise **£7,634.15** for Mutemwa. This money has gone towards buying 200 new laying chickens and their feed supplies for the coming year which will produce eggs for the whole community and generate a much needed income for Mutemwa. Thank you so much for your very generous donations. Both JBMS and the Mutemwa community really appreciate your support.



# RIDE FOR LEPROSY 2022



A week after finishing the 'Welsh Coast 500 – JBMS Ride for Leprosy' cycle it's time to reflect on the amazing adventure that Jono and I undertook. We are so grateful for the donations, well-wishes, hospitality and support from the JBMS members, friends, family and strangers. It is incredibly humbling to see our Just Giving fundraiser hit 93% (and still rising) of our £5,000 target. In addition to this, JBMS members have also sent in some very generous donations by cheque, meaning we are well over the target and the money raised will go to the patients and community at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe.

The 500 mile Welsh coast cycle, starting at Ashton Gate football stadium in Bristol and ending at Anfield stadium in Liverpool, was a memorable challenge and I will now reflect upon some of the many highs and lows now the legs are back to normal! We set off in a heat wave and the greatest challenge of the first few days was coping with the plus 35°C temperatures along the south coast. Just to add to the discomfort a wasp flew into my cycling jersey just after we had crossed the Severn Bridge and embedded itself in my chest, which remained itchy and sore for the next five days. Despite the heat we made good progress through Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelli, Saundersfoot, Tenby and made it to the Pembrokeshire coast's beautiful, but steep coves of Broad Haven, Nolton Haven and Newgale. We were going to take a ferry to Skomer Island, but after hearing that the puffins had already

flown we decided to head north instead. After a night in hammock tents near Haverfordwest and having travelled as far west as possible we headed northwards to Fishguard and Cardigan. This was our shortest day so far so despite it being a ten mile round trip to Poppit Sands beach we decided to cycle there for a much needed swim. This turned out to be a great decision as when we entered the sea we were given an incredible display by one of Cardigan Bay's resident Bottle-nose dolphin pods, which were rounding up and hunting the mackerel, sea bass and other fish feeding on the schooling sand eels very close to the shore. This was without doubt the non-cycling highlight of the trip and such a privilege to witness.

The next day we continued northwards and after a fast downhill section, reaching 44.9mph, we limped the bikes into the Aberaeron Cycle Works, where despite not booking and being busy they managed to repair Jono's damaged disk brakes and replace my worn brake pads. With the bikes in better shape we continued northwards to Aberswyth and it's extremely steep hills and beyond to the beautiful and secluded Wallog where we refuelled on pasta and ale and enjoyed another swim in the sea. Finally the heatwave subsided, however we now faced strong headwinds on our longest and hilliest day northwards through Borth, Machynlleth, Aberdovey, Harlech, Porthmadog, Beddgelert, through Snowdonia and across the Menai Bridge



to Anglesey. We made great progress early on during this 100 mile day as we knew we had to be in good order for our assault on Snowdonia's Pen-Y-Pass climb. We both felt some trepidation for this feat but despite being the longest climb, the gradient of 4% was very manageable compared to some of the gradients we had encountered, and the picturesque views certainly helped. The downhill section, despite being flanked by rain, was the cycling highlight of the trip; zooming downhill with Mount Snowdon to our left, through the breath-taking Nant Peris glacial valley was exhilarating. Despite the distance that day, after the invigorating Snowdonia section we barely registered the 11 mile hilly last leg to Anglesey along some very narrow, bumpy and undulating B-roads. We had a great night in Holyhead and set off early the following morning eastwards through Bangor, Conway, Colwyn Bay to Chester for what we thought would be an easy day. The wind however had shifted from the north to now coming from the east and we had another full day of riding into a headwind. To make matters worse, a rear gear cable broke and we spent over two and a half hours trying to replace it, which we couldn't so after tensioning the cable to sit in a middle gear setting we tied knots in it and made it across the English border and into Chester.

After the heatwave, which was replaced by two days of strong headwinds we were ready for any weather, however it was a calmer, grey and almost frictionless day and we enjoyed the 'uncontested Champs-Elysees stage' cycle around the coast of the Wirral and across into Liverpool. I said it was almost frictionless; we had the first puncture of the trip, caused by a tiny 2mm piece of metal that had pierced my front 'Specialized Armadillo' tyre after cycling alongside the military ranges (possibly a bullet or grenade fragment). We cycled up the hill to our end point; Anfield stadium (sadly just missing Mohammed Salah, Virgil Van Dyke and a few other players handing out free footballs) where we were allowed into the stadium for a few victory photos and some time to reflect on the journey. After over 510 miles cycled, 7,472 metres climbed, a tube of 'Chamois Buttr', bunches of bananas, flapjacks, Tesco meal deals and countless water bottle refills we had made it. We tried to get the train home but due to the rail strikes we stayed in Liverpool and celebrated the eight days!

We are incredibly humbled and grateful for the generous donations, which have so far raised in excess of £7,000 for the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe. We are also very grateful of the support, well wishes and the kind-hearted hospitality of the Paynters, Eversheds and the Crystals for accommodating and feeding us. It was a great adventure and a wonderful way to experience the Welsh coast.

*Alexander Macpherson*



# ST ANNE'S GUILD



Over 100 members of St Anne's Guild from the inner city deanery of the Archdiocese of Harare visited Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre on 27 August 2022. The members of St Anne's came to Mutemwa to present items that we were donating to the community which included: 2 x 5000 litre water tanks, clothing and many tubs of vaseline for the patients. We spent the afternoon with patients, learning about their experiences and hearing stories of those who had the opportunity to live with John Bradburne in the 1970's. It was truly a priceless experience that we will all cherish and feel privileged to have been able to help in some small way.

*Flora Ngwenya*

## 43RD ANNIVERSARY AT MUTEMWA



Over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th September, the annual John Bradburne 43rd Anniversary took place at Mutemwa in Zimbabwe. Hundreds of pilgrims from all over Zimbabwe and further afield come to celebrate the life of John. The day started with uplifting Zimbabwean singing, followed by testimonials of how John had interceded for people. After lunch, Father Mgcini Moyo gave an update on John's Cause for Beatification and then there was a chance for people to meet the community living at Mutemwa.

After an evening Mass, at midnight there was a procession of pilgrims who walked up Mount Chigona, stopping at the stations of the cross on route, praying and treading the path that John Bradburne regularly took. Over night, people prayed, sang and asked John to hear their intentions. Finally dawn came and the final descent down the mountain in the early hours of Sunday morning, with people going home spiritually rejuvenated for the future and positivity that John's Cause is pressing forward.

# CROSS FELL 2022



Nearly 50 pilgrims joined in the second climb up Cross Fell on the 18th June 2022 under the leadership of Bishop Paul Swarbrick, the Bishop of Lancaster, in whose Diocese Cross Fell resides. John Bradburne's Birthday is on the 14th June 1921 and the anniversary of his death is on 5th September 1979. The previous walk had been held in September and the weather was so atrocious, wind, gales, hail, rain and snow we decided to hold the next walk in June assuming we would have much better weather. We had none of it. The weather was almost similar to the weather we experienced in September. It is for this reason that the John Bradburne Memorial Society have decided to hold the next walk up Cross Fell on 15th July 2023. Surely if a walk is held in July, we might experience some better weather? We won't hold our breath.

Cross Fell is the second highest fell in England outside of the Lake District National Park. It is a walk which has to be taken seriously, as the boggy terrain and lack of clear pathways in some parts can make the climb challenging. Having the right footwear and clothing are certainly essential.

John Bradburne was never one for taking the easiest route and his life was a metaphor for searching for God in unexpected places. We learnt at the beginning of the walk as we gathered in the Church of St John the Evangelist at Skirwith

that John's father was once the Vicar of the Church. The vicarage was a stone's throw away from the Church where John grew up and played. The Society hosted an exhibition of the life of John Bradburne in the village hall and this helped to inform those new walkers who may not have known too much about John. Fortified with tea and biscuits kindly provided by the parishioners of St John, we set off on our walk.

This year the organisers decided we would make our ascent from the East side of the Fell. Initially there is an easy ascent across fields and moorland with the occasional boggy section. It was in these sections that we discovered that helping each other was the sure way of getting out of difficulty. There is nothing worse than hiking in wet boots or even worse, wet socks. Moving along to the base of the Fell there is a long grassy incline which eventually takes us to an undisclosed path - having a mobile phone with GPS certainly helps you to know exactly where you are. Once off this path, we come to a very distinct path made up of stepping stones which leads us to the top of Cross Fell. From here we have 200 metre walk to the trig point and the welcome wind shelter in the form of a cross.

As we arrived the wind got up and the visibility was non-existent. On a good day (whenever they are) you can see across into Yorkshire and even the North East. We huddled together as we ate our

sandwiches and drank our hot drinks. We did not dally too long but long enough for Bishop Paul to lead us in prayer and read one of the poems that John had written. The majority of walkers decided to return down the fell from the way we ascended, only a couple of experienced walkers returned by the western route and the even more boggy terrain.

Despite the weather, the sun eventually decided to make an appearance on our descent. Everyone was undeterred by the weather and were looking forward to the walk again next year. We arrived at our starting point, St Lawrence, Kirkland. Photos were taken and some managed a cup of beer and a tippie of wine. If those who attended

could bring along with them one more friend next year, we would have a good gathering to enjoy our walk even more. Like John we are all pilgrims searching for God and He can indeed be found in unexpected places. The hardships that we may have experienced on our short climb were as nothing compared to the hardships that John bore during his lifetime and especially when he lived at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre. For more information regarding John Bradburne and to keep informed about next years walk please visit [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com)

Alex Walker



Can you help buy some essential items for the patients living at Mutemwa this Christmas?



- £25 PRESSURE CUSHION
- £30 A PAIR OF CRUTCHES
- £50 RUG
- £75 BEDSIDE CABINET
- £125 SHELVING UNITS



TO DONATE:  
[WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/CAMPAIGN/JBMSXMAS2022](http://WWW.JUSTGIVING.COM/CAMPAIGN/JBMSXMAS2022)  
[info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com) +44 7979 187498  
JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB



# BEATIFICATION

It was impossible for me to be at the celebration of the 43rd Anniversary of John's return to Heaven at Mutemwa this year. But here are some words, full of joy for the immense gift that God has given us through the Servant of God, John Bradburne. You know how much he loved us because he saw in each sick and suffering human being, the incarnate figure of Jesus Christ.

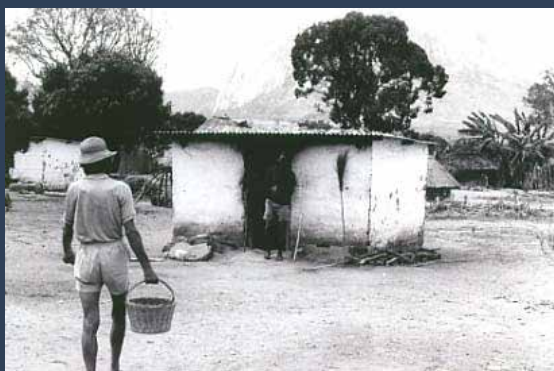
As Postulator I want to tell you that the Cause of John's Canonisation is proceeding and several witnesses have already been heard by the Ecclesiastical Tribunal and others are waiting to be heard. We must be patient and know that the Lord acts in our patience without a shadow of a doubt, that John will be taken as an example of his holiness of life and virtue.

I hope that next year, if world health conditions allow, we can meet again in Mutemwa and be able to see other wonders that God will want to do through John's intercession. I want to remind all of you that several of John's friends have ascended to Heaven, for example Father Michael O'Halleron and Heather Benoy, and we ask that they pray for each of us.

I thank Archbishop Robert Ndlovu, (Archbishop of Harare) for his vital support and I ask for your prayers to the Lord to help me continue to carry out John's Cause which is so important for all of us, and for the church in Zimbabwe and the UK, but also for the universal Church.

A huge and affectionate hug to all of you. Know that you are in my heart and in my prayers.

*Enrico Solinas,  
Postulator of John Bradburne's Cause*





# JOHN BRADBURNE CELEBRATORY MASS AT BUCKFAST ABBEY 2023



JBMS will be holding a Mass, lunch and walk around Buckfast Abbey on Saturday 10th June 2023. Buckfast holds a special place in John Bradburne's story, as it was during his time spent at the monastery that he learnt to look after bees, although he also found out that the Benedictine life was not for him!

To book your place contact Kate on: 07979 187498 or email: [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com)

## CUMBRIA'S OWN BRED SAINT



By the time you read this I hope the 16 large display photographs and script about John Bradburne will have a permanent home.

John was born in Skirwith on the fell side 6 miles east of Penrith. Though he was only received into the Catholic church long after leaving Cumbria it seems now appropriate to base the display as near to Skirwith as possible and happily the parish priest at St Catherine's Penrith, Fr John Winstanley, has agreed that this can happen.

We are in the process of buying 8 panels of concertina screens to hold the display which will be in the Haydock Centre at St Catherine's, Penrith. CA11 9EL.

I do not know if John ever worshipped at St Catherine's but it seems likely given that he did return to Cumbria in adult life. If anyone knows for certain do let me know. It is my parish church.

# LIFE IS LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE



To have your own bicycle is a great honour and privilege in Africa. So it is many thanks to Deanna Williston OFS, that some of our Mutemwa teenagers were able to be given a fantastic new and sturdy bicycle each. This is not only a most valued gift, but it also enables them to get to school and back safely.

Their travel time to school has been greatly shortened, and has made our children very proud and valued as members of the Mutemwa community. Their spirits have been greatly uplifted.

Deanna, who is a member of JBMS and a devotee of John, was turning 50 this year. She spontaneously asked her friends and family, to help by giving her a 'birthday donation gift' which would go towards some bicycles for the school children at Mutemwa, instead of a gift for herself. Thoughtful and kind in itself.

The Mutemwa children were thrilled to hear about this precious gift, and were so happy and excited. Each of them felt so proud to become the new owner of their very own bicycle.

Each bike came with a rear seat behind the saddle, for carrying a sibling or a friend. Each bicycle came with a bicycle pump, a lock and chain and also a puncture repair kit.

Thank you Deanna for all your kindness through your generous family and friends. You have certainly made a big difference at Mutemwa, as you can see in the photos here. Your 50th Birthday gifts, continues to bring much joy and happiness with our Mutemwa youth. May God bless you.

Teresa Yonge

We would like to welcome Father Muqhelisi Sibanda and Father Jean Claude Hakizuwera who are the new Chaplain and assistant Chaplain at Mutemwa. The community has welcomed them with open arms and we look forward to working with them. "Our duty is to bring the people of God closer to their Creator as well as to pray with the pilgrims. With the help of God Mutemwa will be a great shine." Fr Jean Claude.



# YOU'RE GOING NORTH, YOUNG MAN!

Many readers will have seen the archive of John's poetry online, at [www.johnbradburnpoems.com](http://www.johnbradburnpoems.com). But what if you wanted to see the original manuscripts - the actual handwritten or typed texts? It might be simply to experience the wonder of being close to papers that John himself held. Or - and this is going to be increasingly the case once his Cause succeeds - scholars will want to see the originals as part of any research project into his spirituality or literary achievement. Until now this would have been extremely difficult, involving a trip to Holyhead (in the days when I held all the material, as part of the process of transferring it to digital form) or, when that was completed, to Risbury (where Celia Brigstocke based the JBMS). Things are about to get a whole lot easier.

In the summer of 2019 I gave a talk about John's poetry to a conference held at the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, and one of the outcomes was a proposal to locate all John's papers there. The CCS is the UK's first permanent centre devoted to research and teaching in Catholic theology in a public academy, and since its foundation in 2007 it's developed a worldwide reputation. It's the ideal place to house John's poetry, and I'm delighted to report that they've agreed to take it. The archive will be carefully stored in a strong room and brought up to visitors as required. Everything will be freshly catalogued, so it should be an easy matter to find a manuscript of a poem or letter.

There are some details still to sort out, and some final preparatory work still to do, but all being well the collection should be safely in place in Durham by early 2023. We'll provide more detail about how to obtain access to it then.

*David Crystal*



# MUTEMWA LEPROSY CARE CENTRE

Mutemwa's vision is to be a self-sustaining community and to continue providing a homely environment for the leprosy patients, disabled and destitute living there. There are 34 residents, of which 19 have leprosy, whilst 11 are physically challenged and 4 destitute.

The patients receive their medication from the clinic and they have personalised treatment plans. The clinic continues to treat outpatients from the surrounding community and offers services such as: HIV testing and treatment, family planning, vaccinations etc. It is a thriving clinic and plays a vital role for those living in that area.

Mutemwa is blessed with land and from the available projects it is currently able to sustain itself in a number of areas especially being able to support the community nutritionally. At the beginning of the year there were 350 chickens bought by our wonderful JBMS donors creating 8.5 crates of eggs per day. In the piggery, we have a total of 44 pigs at Mutemwa. There are a total of 20 cattle - 5 cows, 4 bulls, 4 calves, 2 oxen and 5 heifers. The benefits from the cattle is their manure is good for the growing of the vegetables, as well as providing beef and milk. Currently we are milking 4 cows which is supplying all patients with sufficient milk. In the maize fields, the following were harvested this year so far:

- 6.5 tonnes of maize
- 26 buckets of ground nuts
- 4 buckets of beans

All the produce is being channelled for the nutritional benefit of patients. Plans for 2022/23 farming season are to add animal feed crops such as sunflower and soya beans so that we cut down on buying them in.

With the support of JBMS donors, we continue to help support all of those living at Mutemwa in order to improve their conditions of life.

*Aquinamary Guri*  
(Mutemwa administrator)





# JBMS CHRISTMAS SHOP

## CALENDAR 2023

This year JBMS has created a Calendar with images of John alongside landscape images and a small extract from one of John's poems. The price will be £10.00 per calendar



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

On listening to our members, we have created a new Christmas card with an image of the Holy Family. The price of the cards are: £8.95 for a pack of 10 cards. Each pack comes with 10 white envelopes. The cards are blank inside.



## CHRISTMAS BAUBLE

Bring the buzz of the bee to your Christmas collection with this beautiful papier mache bauble. Hanging pretty from the string, fall in love with the green and gold colourway across the repeat pattern of bees. Designed to celebrate these beautiful insects in winter, and remind us of their importance in our gardens and a reminder of John Bradburne where bees are strongly associated with him, especially through prayerful intercessions. These bauble's have been blessed and will add a perfect addition to your Christmas tree.

Size: W7.5cm x H7.5cm x L7.5cm

Material: Papier mache

Priced at £5.95 per bauble.



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE VAGABOND CD BY PHIL BERTHOUD

(John Bradburne's godson)

On this cd there are lively, foot-tapping fiddle tunes; beautiful traditional songs sung by Phil's wife, Mahrey; traditional music of Cumbria, Norfolk and Devon played on guitar, mandolin, harmonium, recorder all underpinned by exciting Zimbabwe-inspired drumming and percussion from son Louis, with the front cover of the album designed by Phil's daughter Rhianna. Price: £10

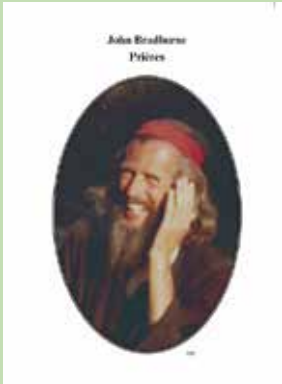
**SUPPORT JBMS WHEN YOU SHOP** - All purchases made via [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) can earn a small amount of cashback. Please select John Bradburne Memorial Society as your preferred charity.



**GIFT AID YOUR DONATIONS** - We can claim Gift Aid on eligible donations. When donating to JBMS, UK taxpayers will be asked to complete a Gift Aid declaration and forms are available from the office so just ask.



# JOHN BRADBURN IS GOING WORLDWIDE



We are excited to announce that JBMS has produced the Novena prayer card, Beatification card and Magnificent Life leaflet in different languages, so that John's story can be told far and wide. We now have these prayer cards and leaflets in French, Italian, Spanish, German and Portuguese. Please get in touch if you can help with distribution/contacts.

## PILGRIMAGE, CROSS FELL 2023

JBMS are planning our pilgrimage climb up Cross Fell on Saturday 15th July 2023, so please make a note in your diary. This hike is not for the faint hearted, so please bear that in mind. We will celebrate a Mass in Skirwith church so everyone welcome to this even if they cannot do the hike. We are privileged that Bishop Paul Swarbrick will again lead prayers up the Fell. To book your place contact Kate on: 07979 187498 or email: [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com)



### DATES FOR DIARY:

10th June 2023  
15th July 2023

JBMS Mass, Lunch & Walk at Buckfast Abbey  
JBMS Cross Fell Pilgrimage

# TESTIMONIES

During his life, John somehow managed to compose six thousand plus pieces of verse; I'm not calling them poems, simply because many are letters to friends and family, many are prayers, and yes, some are poems in the purest sense; it was his way of communicating, that's how his brain worked, complex and very effective.



I write verse and prayers; I'm nowhere near as prolific as John, maybe a couple each month, not many reach public view, they are just not good enough. Here I have to firmly state that this is all Servant of God, John Bradburne's fault. In fact, the Franciscan journey that I'm on is all his fault. It's no secret. Out of John's vast output of verse, I have one particular favourite, it's a popular one, so the chances are that you'll know it., the poem (or prayer) from 1949, lines one and two being;

I do not follow Thee O Lord

I seek not well Thy will.

A little while ago, my friend John le Grove, set this poem to music. It received its première at the 100th Anniversary event in Manchester last

year (2021). There are lines in the poem that tell us about John, the John of 1949, the wandering John; its so very, very honest; another four lines;

I do not follow Thee O'Lord  
But Thou dost find me still  
The maker of all loveliness  
All beautiful must be

The last two lines;

And He who died on Calvary  
The souls of men loves still

Of all that John wrote, of all that has been written about him, this three verse poem means the most to me. John's humility is right there, open bare for all to see. Is he saying that he is unworthy? Almost certainly. He's expressing what I've often needed to express. It really is a prayer, not just a poem, it's the prayer of a truly humble man.

Servant of God, John Bradburne has changed many lives, yes, certainly those in Mutemwa, where his legacy can be witnessed by all. He gave me a push onto the road laid out by our blessed Father Francis; John still walks that road, I see him ahead, often disappearing around a corner, I will never be able to catch him up, we may all try but will never succeed.

*David Cunningham*

I was introduced to John Bradburne about 4-5 years ago by my daughter and I feel I have gotten to know him during this time sensing his presence and healing. I am 85 years old and I suffer from a hiatus hernia and I have found great help/comfort from him, easing the pain and discomfort. Sensing John smiling over me, has encouraged me to eat good quality honey to help ease the discomfort. I later discovered it did indeed benefit me. As well as healing myself I have prayed to John to help an ailing friend. My friend subsequently told me she was woken up in the middle of the night, having dreamed of a swarm of bees around her. She felt a comforting feeling with this experience which helped her.

On one occasion, it was time to put all my clocks forward by one hour. I have many clocks, 17 in all. I had one final clock to do, but when I looked at it, the clock was already put forward. I made a comment to my daughter, who was with me at the time, how strange this was. I asked John to confirm if it was him. I then heard a very loud squawk coming out of my clock, sounding like a

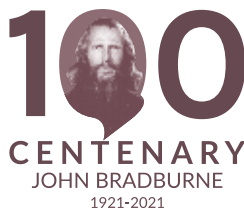
bird of prey, never have I heard an Eagle noise so loud! I've heard nothing since this day.

I have sensed John around many times in my home and on one occasion a gentleman who visited me and is very sensitive to atmosphere, said he could feel a presence of a monk in the room. That's interesting as I'd never mentioned John Bradburne to him!

I tell many people about John and ask them to pray to him as I do.

*Eileen Cribb Ghisoni*





## **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)**

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PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0YB, United Kingdom  
01568 760632 | 07979 187498 | [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com)  
[www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com)  
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