



# JBMS

John Bradburne Memorial Society



# JBMS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023

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# WELCOME

Welcome to the JBMS Winter Newsletter. It has been an eventful year and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our wonderful supporters and donors for your unwavering prayers, love, and support throughout the past year. Your dedication is what fuels our mission to support the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre and spread the news about John Bradburne and his saintly life.

In this edition, we're excited to share the latest news from JBMS in 2023, and we're eagerly looking ahead to 2024 as we continue to advance John's Cause and work towards creating a better environment for all those living at Mutemwa. Thank you for being a part of our journey and we hope you enjoy this newsletter.



## FR COLIN CARR WALK FOR LEPROSY

This October, Fr Colin Carr OP completed a sponsored 82km walk in Cambridge where he is based at Blackfriars Priory as a Dominican Friar for his 82nd birthday, to raise money for those living at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe.

Fr Colin taught in a Jesuit school in Zimbabwe, near where John Bradburne was living at Silveira House (a Jesuit centre for religious training and education). He met John several times, once in the company of a hive of bees in his little room at Silveira! It is in honour of John and the people of Mutemwa that Fr Colin has done this challenge.

Many thanks to all those who have cheered and contributed along the way, it has enormously helped Fr Colin keep walking and he has raised so far £2,336 and still counting. The justgiving page remains open to contribute: [www.justgiving.com/campaign/jbmswalk](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/jbmswalk)

Thank you Fr Colin and Happy 82nd Birthday



# MUTEMWA LEPROSY CARE CENTRE: A SANCTUARY OF HOPE

Nestled in the countryside of Zimbabwe, lies Mutemwa, the name meaning “outcast” in the local Shona language, is not just a name; it’s a testament to the remarkable resilience of the people it serves, who were left there and abandoned many years ago.

Mutemwa has grown to become a well-established and highly regarded leprosy care centre within Zimbabwe. It’s home to over 30 residents, individuals affected by leprosy, disabilities, and those who have been shunned by society. At Mutemwa, they find acceptance, care, and a renewed sense of belonging and independence.

Each year, the centre welcomes approximately a thousand outpatients a month, providing people with essential medical care and support. Furthermore, Mutemwa reaches out to those who are homeless and destitute, offering them shelter in their most challenging times.

The centre provides physical, material, emotional and spiritual care to post-leprosy sufferers, the physically and mentally challenged, and the destitute, ensuring that they can rebuild their lives with dignity and independence.

In the pursuit of self-sufficiency and sustainability, Mutemwa has diversified its operations. The centre engages in farming - rearing poultry, pigs, and cattle. These livestock enterprises not only provide a source of income but also teach valuable skills to the residents, empowering them to lead independent lives.



# THIS POEM; OR IS IT A PRAYER

## BY DAVID CUNNINGHAM



I have that type of temperament that is inclined to obsessive behaviours. These actions are never short lived, they last for months, even years. So that sets things out for me to reveal an obsession, one that those who know me well, will be aware of, it's one of John Bradburne's poems.

The first two lines:

*"I do not follow thee, O Lord"*

*"I seek not well Thy will"*

Reading this for the first time you would be forgiven for asking the question, did John write this? The answer is a resounding yes, he did write it, and the rest of this astounding poem. (or is it a prayer?). Was there a time when John was plagued by doubt? This poem from 1949, a mere 4 years after World War Two, John more than most, was searching, hunting; but for what? The world was in turmoil then, as it still is, with killing machines ever more efficient. Today, development, progress, old men are still talking, young men dying at the bidding of the chattering old. In such a world doubt is hardly surprising. Is it, I wonder a necessary component of "faith"? Faith demands that we believe the unbelievable. Doubt, is when we want to believe the unbelievable, but we are just not quite sure. Just not brave enough.... doubt, a time when we search (maybe without knowing) for that "thing" called faith; Faith, when we are asked to believe without proof; to believe in the incredible, where credibility is totally absent.

This poem, or is it a prayer, is composed over three verses, each verse having eight lines..., returning to the first verse; lines seven and eight:

*"I do not follow thee, O Lord"*

*"But thou dost find me still"*

In just eight lines, using just forty eight words, John takes us from what seems like despair to comfort, from doubt to certainty. In verse two, line one:

*"Yet do I seek Thy Face, O Lord,"*

to line eight

*"Thy Spirit follows me"*

And finally in verse three, lines seven and eight;

*"And He who died on Calvary,"*

*"The souls of men loves still"*

The ultimate reassurance, the ultimate comfort, the ultimate message of love. Our very own Servant of God, John (to coin a modern phrase) absolutely "nails it". Why not abandon all pretence that this is a poem, it's not, it's a prayer.

Here, just in case you've missed, is the prayer in full:

**I do not follow Thee, 1949 by John Bradburne**

*I do not follow thee, O Lord,  
I seek not well Thy will;  
And all my life is weariness  
And all my love falls ill:  
And everywhere is emptiness  
Of which I drink my fill;  
I do not follow Thee, O lord,  
But Thou dost find me still.*

*Yet do I seek Thy Face, O Lord,  
Thy wonder I would see;  
The maker of all loveliness  
All beautiful must be:  
Now, overcome by loneliness  
I cast my cares on Thee;  
This I do by thy grace, dear Lord,  
Thy spirit follows me.*

*The Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ  
So loved the souls of men,  
The kneeling in Gethsemane  
He wept in blood for them.  
There, in awful agony,  
He sought the Fathers will;  
And He who died on Calvary,  
The souls of men loves still.*






# COASTAL RACE

A huge congratulations to Gordon Celender for conquering his 35th half marathon along the stunning Antrim Coast in Northern Ireland this summer. His impressive time of 1 hour 35 minutes and 12 seconds secured him the 331st place out of 2000 runners, and he even clinched 3rd place in the Men's 60-year-old age bracket!

Gordon's connection to Mutemwa runs deep. In 2006, he spent six weeks at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre, a place that left an indelible mark on him after living alongside the individuals living with leprosy. During his time in Zimbabwe, he had the privilege of getting to know Fr John Dove SJ, a close friend of John Bradburne's and he witnessed first-hand the community's resilience and strength in the face of adversity, which left a lasting impact.


Thank you, Gordon, for your dedication in running for the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre and a big thank you to all the generous supporters who helped him raise funds providing crucial support to the people living at Mutemwa. The money Gordon raised was £1,422.43 which has gone into helping JBMS purchase a vehicle for the community in Zimbabwe, enabling them to get to hospital comfortably and safely.






**Gordon Celender**  
August 27, 2023 at 9:30 AM · Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

### Antrim Coast Half Marathon



The Fastest Half Marathon In The World

**Congrats! You just set your 3rd fastest time in the Half-Marathon!**

Distance	Avg Pace
21.12 km	4:30 /km
Elapsed Time	Elevation Gain
1:35:12	66 m

# A NEW VEHICLE FOR MUTEMWA COMMUNITY

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that, with your support, JBMS has been able to purchase a new vehicle for the Mutemwa Community. This vehicle will serve as an ambulance, enabling us to transport residents comfortably to and from the hospital safely and efficiently. It will also fulfil other essential transportation needs for the community.

None of this would have been possible without you. Your kindness, generosity, and commitment to our cause have made this dream a reality. Thank you.



## RIISING CASES OF LEPROSY

Countries with weak healthcare systems, like Zimbabwe, are most vulnerable. Since 2020 more cases are being detected especially during the Covid pandemic when there was limited access to healthcare. The Zimbabwean Health Ministry are trying to ramp up their screening programmes and education. However, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned that Zimbabwe “remains vulnerable to leprosy due to socio-economic factors such as poverty, overcrowding and poor nutrition which still favour transmission of leprosy infection.”

Leprosy is a slow acting infection and there can be a gap between contracting the disease, and symptoms showing. Therefore early detection and treatment of leprosy is vital. A multi-drug therapy, which lasts up to 12 months, is used to treat the disease which if caught early can be curable. But if left untreated, the nerve damage results in a crippling of hands and feet, paralysis, and blindness

The Mutemwa Leprosy Catholic & Care Centre in Zimbabwe whom JBMS support are one of the few leprosy clinic's where new cases come to and can be treated in Zimbabwe. We have had one new admitted case recently. So now more than ever we need your support in helping those living at Mutemwa.



# SEAGULLS, SPARROWS, AND THE NAME OF MARY BY ROSANNA MASIOLA (UNIVERSITY OF PERUGIA, ITALY)

It was in May 2021, when I was translating John Bradburne's poems into Italian. I was sweating over puns and rhymes to find their Italian equivalents. I was disturbed by the shrill cries of a couple of seagulls nesting on a nearby rooftop. I went out to see what the ruckus was about and saw they were teaching their newborn how to walk on the rooftop and trying to chase away magpies. The nesting, brooding, and hatching of those seagulls accompanied me throughout my translating of John's poems. When the baby seagull had learnt to fly, my translation was finished!

There was one day in late May when I was about to give up, I was tired of typing, I went to my windowsill, and there saw a little fluffy ball, immobile: it was a baby sparrow who did not want to leave and seemed to be comfortable just sitting there. After watching him for a while, I went on with my work on passerines and swifts while he kept me company.

The sparrows appeared whenever I seemed to be in the company of the 'Bradburnian brotherhood' of friends.

One exceptional event was the 'dance of sparrows' on 8th November 2016. Renato Tomei and I were by Lake Trasimeno with Rosemary Gray, a colleague from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, who was familiar with John Bradburne's work. It was late in the afternoon, and we were undecided whether we walk down to the Lake, as it would be after sunset by the time we got there. But then we thought we might have some 'signs'. At the time, I was unaware of the potential of the letter M for Mary in John's poems, nor did I much reflect on John's arrival at Lake Trasimeno near Perugia as he coasted its shores. We were at the same place, where John had arrived from Tuscany. When we arrived at the Lake, people were standing out of their cars, looking up to the sky, taking videos with their phones. It seemed like a Scifi movie: We were witnessing a gigantic swarm of sparrows ready to migrate to the warmer climates of Southern Africa. The sparrows covered the sky above the

Lake and seemed to communicate the 'sign' that we had awaited to receive. Only after many years, and after reading and rereading some of John's poems, do I realise what the sign was about: it was the number 8, which the sparrows shapes made in the sky with their bodies, which then turned into a gigantic letter M. It took me years to realise how John made his presence manifest on this occasion and others.



# JBMS RIDE FOR LEPROSY 2023

*Geneva to Avignon, Tour D'Alps Ode Tour Summary by Alex Macpherson  
A poem written in true John Bradburne style.*



*In tyre marks of cycling legends we started our seven day  
JBMS charity bike ride,  
In this August heatwave: "This'll be tough", we sighed,  
From Coppet and Lac Geneva the gentle slopes gave early  
false hope,  
Soon climbing up the tortuously steep and hot Col de Ramaz,  
my will almost broke.*

*I remembered the reason we started this endeavour,  
To raise donations for patients of Zimbabwe's Mutemwa,  
Their leprosy inflections beyond comprehension,  
But complaining or protest there's never a mention,  
So with new found resolve, we will complete this cycling  
mission.*

*Through Swiss and French Alps our journey began,  
Savoie, Auvergne, Haute Alps and Provence with elan,  
Through famous Tour de France routes we would tirelessly  
ride,  
A brave or foolish adventure, you can decide, at least we had  
JBMS by our side.*

*At 606.51 kilometers, the distance was modest,  
The heatwave, gradients and mountains would be the main  
test,  
Ascending 12,583 meters in thin Lycra shorts and vest,  
All at the JBMS Directeur Sportifs punishing behest: "You will  
climb one and a half of Everest."*

*The temperatures climbed, reaching forty-seven,  
Eau potable fountains were like manna from heaven,  
Fuelled by cafe noir, bananas, baguettes and Tartiflette pizza,  
We'd ride till our nutrients were completely deplete, ahh.*

*Over fifteen high mountain Cols, we'd pass,  
Ramaz, L'Encrenaz and the winding Colombiere, alas,  
Aravis, Saisies, Telegraphe, and more,  
Saddles getting harder and behinds even more sore.*

*Steep ascents, blazing sun, suffering aplenty; this was a noble  
quest,  
"Two mamils on saddles", many onlookers would jest,  
"They'll never complete this, that summit they'll not crest",  
Spurred by the sceptics whose faith wasn't strong, we  
pedalled harder and with newfound aplomb.*

*Stunning Alpine vistas would distract from the pain,  
Pedalling over the beautiful Col de Madeleine,  
The impossibly blue Lac de Roselend inspired us beyond  
compare,  
The lofty Cormet de Roselend was a climb we could now  
easily bare.*

*Jagged peaks, river valleys, tunnels and trees,  
Cliff faces, Alpine fields and Reblochon cheese,  
34km of the Galibier climb, hot, steep and exposed to the sun,  
The views at the summit left us weak at the knees.*

*Lautaret, Macuegne, L'Homme Mort, Joux Plane,  
Tempetes, Meraillet and more, many merged into one,  
Sweating and pedalling in the unforgiving heat,  
For a great cause, this Alpine route we would complete.*

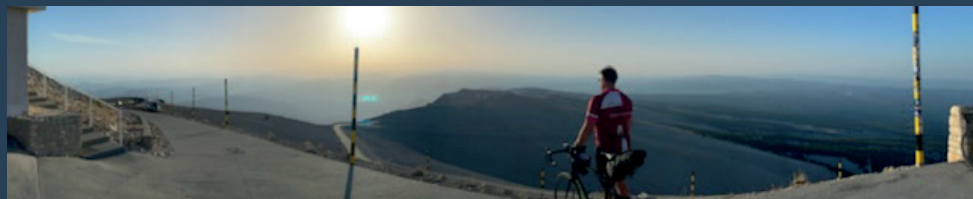
*Staying in hostels, aching muscles worn,  
A long night in a derelict stone gite, utterly forlorn,  
Shepherd dogs barking, wolves howling near,  
I barricaded the door, filled with well founded fear.*

*And on the last day, the Champs Elysees stage in sight,  
Mont Ventoux awaited, a majestic height,  
For a memorable sunrise on the summit's peak,  
We woke at 4 to witness this spectacular solar treat.*

*Stopping at Tom Simpson's granite memorial,  
A tribute to a controversial hero, forever ethereal,  
An incredible adventure, we can't deny,  
Despite disagreements, we'd reach the sky.*

*For JBMS and Mutemwa, we'd given our all,  
A mountain adventure, crossing Cols tall,  
These words can't capture the essence of the ride,  
But the memories made, forever abide.*

*So let's raise a glass to this epic endeavor,  
Through Swiss and French Alps, we'd pedalled for seemingly  
forever,  
For JBMS and Mutemwa, we humbly ask in hope,  
For your support for the patients who still have to climb their  
long and steep slope.*

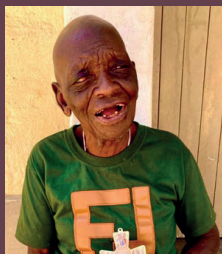




# RIP

We are sorry to report the loss of Paul Karimaduri a patient living with leprosy at Mutemwa, aged 79. Rest in Peace Paul, you will be missed greatly by all those who knew you.

Angeline Zinyuke sadly passed away at the age of 68 years old. We pray for her soul and are thinking of her family at his time.



## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This Christmas, we aspire to fulfil a critical need for the community of Mutemwa: the acquisition of a tractor. This indispensable asset will significantly contribute to the overall well-being and sustenance of the community in several essential ways.

First, the tractor will facilitate the ploughing of maize, a vital staple food providing crucial nutritional support. Moreover, it will aid in the cultivation of beans, groundnuts and other vital crops. Additionally it will play a crucial role in transporting inputs to the fields and carrying the harvested crops, thereby streamlining the agricultural processes in Mutemwa.

Furthermore, the tractor will serve the purpose of ploughing crops for various projects such as feed for layers, pigs, and broilers. Its utility extends to the efficient transportation of manure to the fields and gardens, fostering healthy and sustainable agricultural practices. Moreover, it will assist in the transportation of firewood and the upkeep of the community's surroundings.

We understand that these times are challenging for many, yet any contribution, no matter how small, that you can spare during this festive season, would be immensely valued by the Mutemwa community. Your support will not only empower the residents of Mutemwa but also foster sustainable development and growth in the region.

Please donate online on [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com) or by phone 07979 187498 or by post JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB



# THE LAST FRANCISCAN BUFFOON

## BY BROTHER VALENTINE CASCARINO OFM



Brother Valentine is a Franciscan based in Italy and has completed a PhD thesis on John Bradburne.

A rare gem in Christian mysticism that could be used for a good comparative study between John Bradburne and Saint Francis of Assisi could be termed originality – with buffoonery its distinguished stamp. It may be described as a strange way of behaving while living the Christian faith. The idea itself, known as *haecceitas*, could be traced in, and loosely formulated from the writings of the medieval Franciscan philosopher Blessed John Duns Scotus – a Scotsman. Given its often misunderstood nuances originality is the proverbial crooked line on which God writes straight.

Countless articles, reviews, and books on Saint Francis and the Franciscan movement – failed to decipher originality. Few authors, especially G.K Chesterton, got the concept spot on – in his biography of Saint Francis. Bradburne's own awareness of Franciscan originality was tangential, but this was precisely where his brook meandered effortlessly into the river of Saint Francis as both snaked their way into the mysterious ocean of the Trinity.

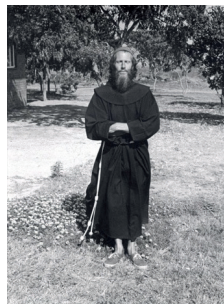
In 1952 he was on his way out of the novitiate House of Ratisbonne in Louvain where he had spent eighteen months. The superior general, H. Colson, wrote that Bradburne seemed to have a vocation



parallel to that of St Benedict Joseph Labre or St Charles de Foucault. Later, Bradburne would humbly reject this comparison in a letter to Fr John Dove SJ saying: "Saint Francis Bernadone (Francis of Assisi) is my spiritual master – but no imitation. Let us imitate the KING, so shall we be true originals." This is essentially the soul of Franciscan Spirituality: sequela Christi. Spurred by originality the Franciscan must be different – sometimes weirdly different. If authentically lost in Christ the friar reappears in a state of quasi forgetfulness and his behaviour, rapt in the whirlpool of the Holy Spirit, becomes bizarre according to human reckoning.

Saint Francis and Bradburne were beyond bizarre. Both were buffoons, clowns, jesters, and fools for Christ. What sane man would roll in rose bush thorns to ward-off temptations to fornicate? Who is mad enough to make a snow lady and call it his wife to put the devil to flight – who had been tempting him to abandon his religious vocation for the married life? Who could be so stupid that when dying would ask to be laid naked on the floor and for ashes to be sprinkled on him. These are some of the weird stuff Francis of Assisi did and which we see also in the life of Bradburne. Bradburne told Geoffrey Worrall, from the Devon Express and Echo newspaper, who encountered him on the streets of London in 1953 where he plied his trade as a minstrel – partly to fundraise for his local Ottery St Mary Parish, that he was "the Jester of Christ the King". In 1963 he moved to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). No sooner had he settled than he was found living in a hen house with chickens while typing poems – some deeply spiritual. On another occasion a boot room was given to him at Silveira House. To prevent guests punctuating his

silence he prayed for bees to swarm the room to keep them out. Bees came. He once filled a mission diesel truck with petrol! Soon Mutemwa leprosy settlement was discovered. He gleefully moved there, lived and served them. His own domicile was a tin hut - and he bathed in a pool of rainwater up a hill called Chigona which also served as his holy ground.



Many people thought him mad. Children made fun of him. A senior government lady doctor with the leprosy committee labelled him "a religious hippy", and "perhaps a little mad with an innate fear of responsibility". All of these played prophetically into the vocation of the buffoon

who must suffer insults, misunderstandings, and hostilities in sequela Christi (1 Peter 2:21-23) - and in the process be sanctified. The bitter irony in buffoonery is that true spiritual wisdom that

confounds its earthly counterpart lies precisely in this holy foolishness. Saints who followed this path continue to trouble our consciences even today because they spur us to confront the foolish choices we make especially with regards to God and the salvation of our own souls - despite our vaunted learning.

Looking at Bradburne's life against the background of the doctoral thesis I recently completed on him I'm continually led into believing, sadly, that we probably may have just witnessed the last original Franciscan of the buffoon tradition. And this is a tragic loss to Christian and Franciscan mysticism.



## NEW ITEMS

### Madonna & Child Christmas Card

This years JBMS Christmas card features a stunning linocut of Madonna and Child, lovingly created by the talented John Bateson-Hill. The card's inside message reads, 'Christmas Blessings and Good Wishes for the New Year.'

These beautifully designed cards are available in packs of 10 for just £10, making them a perfect way to spread Christmas joy while supporting Mutemwa



### Exciting News: Introducing the JBMS Calendar, Birds of South Africa 2024

We're delighted to unveil the JBMS calendar for 2024, a celebration of Southern African birds and the poetic genius of John Bradburne. This calendar features stunning photographs of Southern African birds captured by the talented Pat Ellor and her grandson Sean.

Each image is paired with carefully selected excerpts of John Bradburne's poetry, intimately relating to the birds, creating a beautiful fusion of art and verse.

For just £10.95 each, you can own a calendar, making it a perfect gift for friends and family.



These items can be ordered online at [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com) or via the items list enclosed.

# JOHN BRADBURNE CAUSE FOR BEATIFICATION BY DR ENRICO SOLINAS

Dear friends of JBMS,

I write to update you on the diocesan information process on the life, virtues and fame of the sanctity of the Servant of God John Bradburne. The last witnesses who live outside Zimbabwe should have been heard by now as part of the testimony gathering.

I have received many testimonies that attest that those who turn to John are receiving Graces which demonstrates that John is in the presence of God and is interceding.

I really hope that the ecclesiastical process can be finished, in the diocesan phase, next year. After this all the documentation will be brought to the attention of the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints in Rome.

Let us remain united in prayer and I ask you to remember my father who went to Heaven on September 7th and the father of Fr Moyo, Vice Postulator of John's Cause who also passed to Heaven a few days ago. Dear greetings in particular to those I have been graced to meet personally in June at Buckfast. Until we meet again.



## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Victor Gapare and Attilio Galimberti who very generously helped with the purchasing of prosthesis legs for Maria and Rodina who are now walking freely and easily. It has made the world of difference to their confidence; independence and they have their mobility back.





# JOHN BRADBURN 2023 ANNIVERSARY



This year's John Bradburne Anniversary celebration at Mutemwa on the 5th September commemorating his 44th Anniversary brought together the local Zimbabwean community and organisations in a unique way, emphasising the needs of Mutemwa and showcasing the spirit of unity and generosity.

One of the standout initiatives during the anniversary was the launch of a half marathon race. This event aimed to increase visibility about the essential requirements of Mutemwa within the local community and among local organisations. The race, which started at 0630 hours and concluded at 1030 hours, witnessed an incredible turnout. A total of 63 dedicated athletes participated in various categories, including the 5km, 10km, and 21km races.

We were deeply moved by the support from external organisations who sponsored the event and made it a success but also demonstrated their commitment to Mutemwa's mission.

The spiritual aspect of the anniversary celebration was equally remarkable. Prayers began at 1500 hours and continued through the night, culminating in a solemn mass at 0900 hours the following day. Over 2,000 pilgrims attended, making it a profoundly prayerful and reflective experience.

The 2023 John Bradburne Anniversary at Mutemwa was a testament to the power of community, faith, and shared purpose. It showed that when people come together with a common goal, they can achieve remarkable results. We are grateful to everyone who participated, sponsored, prayed, and donated towards the event.



# WORLD LEPROSY DAY

On Sunday 28th January 2024, we mark World Leprosy Day.

The John Bradburne Memorial Society (JBMS) endeavours to continue and uphold the legacy of John Bradburne, 'Servant of God' who was a Franciscan layman, who cared for the leprosy patients living at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe for the last 10 years of his life until he was murdered. JBMS helps to provide essential items to the community at Mutemwa.

Leprosy is a curable disease, but unfortunately the stigma and lack of education associated with the disease, means people do not get treated early enough to prevent the development of disabilities.

Together with your kind support and prayers we continue our promise to uphold John Bradburne's legacy in supporting those living at Mutemwa with leprosy.

Please promote this day to your parishes, priests, friends, and families. Thank you.

## To donate:

POST: JBMS, PO Box 32, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0YB

ONLINE: [www.johnbradburne.com](http://www.johnbradburne.com)

TEL: (+44) 07979 187498



# LETTERS

John often used to write letters to us at Daramombe when he lived across the river with the catholic missionaries there. He had my treble recorder, which I found difficult to play. He told me he played it to all the baboons. "They think I am the missing link!" John didn't live in the house with the priests but under a water tank. He looked after four hens there and named one the 'Earl of Salisbury'.

I was searching for something I had misplaced the other day and remembered that while John was helping at the presbytery in Enkeldoorn, he lost the front door keys and was searching high and low for them, so he told me that he had asked St Anthony of Padua for help and straightaway found them on top of a filing cabinet! I have often followed his example as I am constantly losing things. That is the result of hoarding stuff you may never need, I have too much clutter!

John would have laughed!

*Pamela Fenwick*

We got to Chishawash mission; sadly Fr Norbert who we had planned to see was away on a meeting with the Jesuits. The Mother Superior of the nuns welcomed us and she told us that something had prompted her to take us to the cemetery and introduce us to one special person by the name of John! She pointed out a couple of graves of some great priests and bishops who are laid and resting in peace. Our port of call was by John's grave. She

told us the entire life of John. His early life in the Anglican Church, his service in the army and his wanderings until he settled at Mutemwa. Until then, I had a very vague and faint knowledge of John Bradburne. The Mother Superior invited us to pray and we put our innermost request to God through his servant John. For the first time in many years; I prayed together with my wife for a common cause, that we may have a child! Remember that I had neglected my prayer life in the bitterness to 'barrenness'. The Sister gave us a pamphlet on the Cause of John with prayers on it. After the prayers, we left and thanked the nun for taking us through. The life of praying together was slowly beginning and is still going on to this day.

We were on the verge of migrating to Ireland, when my wife told me she could not travel with me as she was expecting! I cancelled my new job and travel arrangements to await the coming of our first ever baby. I prayed and thanked John and promised to visit him again, which I am still yet to do with my miracle baby. If it were not for John's intercessions, who could it have been? John worked through the Mother Superior. John prompted her to come visit him at his grave. I came to believe also that it was not coincidence that the Jesuits had a meeting that day, meaning I couldn't meet with Father Norbert. Someone greater than Father was around and could better serve us - the Vagabond himself.

*Stephen Jamali*

## DATES FOR DIARY

### 8th June 2024 Pilgrimage on Cross Fell

Please save the date for our annual climb up Cross Fell in Cumbria, hopefully next year the weather will be kind and we will get up the Fell. Please let us know if you are interested by emailing us on [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com) or calling 07979 187498.



## 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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