

Arthur Faulkner



Arthur receiving his award from Revd Ann Fox during the 'virtual' Circuit Covenant Service on 10th January

60 Years of Service as a Local Preacher

Reflection and comment by **Arthur Faulkner** on receiving his award for Long Service as a Methodist Local Preacher..... *Has it really been that long?*

I once had a friend who hung all of his certificates in the smallest room in his house. I have no intention of doing this with my long service award as a Methodist Local Preacher, neither do I intend to name any other than the first and what I imagine will be the last long service reminder.

The first such piece of paper highlighted my membership of the "Hornby Railway Club" which enabled me to place 'MHRC' after my name. The second is, of course, quite different. However, both have one thing in common, namely: they both speak of an achievement and that is where the similarity ends.

The club membership spoke of a hobby and was attained by purely my own efforts in saving up enough pocket money to buy my way in, whilst the latter is due in a very large part to the support given by Jackie, my wife, (also for 60 years), my family and to the prayers and the help of many others and most importantly to the practical support of the Holy Spirit.

It would be churlish to pretend that service as a local preacher involves little effort; in fact it requires dedicated and ongoing study of the scriptures, much time in preparing for services and self denial. Having said that, the rewards easily outweigh the cost in both spiritual and practical ways. The bonds of friendship in each of the churches which the preacher visits, the fellowship of the Preachers & Worship Leaders Meetings, the knowledge gained from the Bible and other sources, and the attainment of skills are readily called to mind. In the case of the latter, my early days in Wolverhampton and my work as a Chartered Engineer stood me in good stead and taught me to respect people in all walks of life, not least the man or woman who actually does the hands on work, be they plumber, cleaner or surgeon. In Yorkshire, as a Polytechnic/University lecturer, my skills involved in the lecture theatre and the pulpit interacted, to the benefit of each; or so I am told.

So, in conclusion, the possession of a 60 year Long Service award as an accredited Methodist Local Preacher is due to many and much more than could be written here and not least to the NHS which has kept me going far beyond my three score years and ten.

If you feel you are missing out on **Burns Night** this year, fear not, as you can follow one on zoom with our own Donald Milne, who is proposing the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. This is scheduled for Saturday 23rd January at 7.00pm and you can request the link by contacting Jim Murison, who is making the arrangements on behalf of the St Andrew Society of York.

[email Jim: james.murison@outlook.com for details and zoom link]



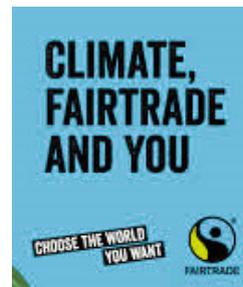
Letter from the Fairtrade Foundation:

Two weeks into the New Year and it's already clear 2021 will bring some familiar challenges. But our global Fairtrade community is constantly working to make this year that little bit brighter - and we need you to be part of that. We've picked out a few of the ways you can choose the world you want this year with Fairtrade. From joining in with our online '*Choose the world you want*': Fairtrade, climate and you festival during **Fairtrade Fortnight (22nd February—7th March)** to testing out some new Fairtrade favourites, 2021 promises to be a chance to try something a little different. While the year has got off to a difficult start, there's one thing we hope you won't change in 2021: **keep choosing Fairtrade!** While this year the workers behind your Fairtrade bananas will be boosted by our renewed **Living Wage strategy**, which will mean more workers across the world earning enough for decent quality of life sooner. These are just a few of the differences Fairtrade is making every day, thanks to your choice to back Fairtrade and choose a better future. And as we enter another challenging year, we're so glad to have you on board.

Many thanks,

Stefan,

(Campaigns Team, Fairtrade Foundation)



Update from Boston Spa Surgery

Whilst the Patient Participation Group has not met for some time, I thought one or two points may be useful with regard to the vaccination programme.

As things stand, all vaccines are being administered at Wetherby Health Centre and you will be notified by the surgery when you are to be offered a jab. Please therefore **do not** telephone the surgery to make such an enquiry. As you may have heard or read, the aim is to offer a vaccine to all over the age of 70 by mid-February. Once you have received your jab you will be notified by the surgery after 12 weeks that you will be due to have your booster jab of the same vaccine as the first.

The surgery Facebook page and the website www.bostonspasurgery.co.uk is kept fully up to date. Please note that you are currently unable to telephone for repeat prescriptions which should be placed in the box in the lobby of the surgery just by the front door. Better still, sign up for the *Systmonline* service which allows patients to order repeat prescriptions, view test results and much more. Speak to a receptionist about this.

Please help the surgery by being patient and be assured you **will** receive a vaccination in the order set out by the government.

Stay well

David Coates

Patient Participation Group member

Footnote: It is also possible that you will receive a NHS letter through the post asking you to sign up for the Covid vaccination online and you can book to attend the centre in York at Askham Bar (the closest to Boston Spa). Jim Murison