

THE MASTER'S BLOG WEEK 8

MEETING WITH THE COMPANY ALMONER: 11 DECEMBER 2017

Having played a part in the introduction of the post of Almoner just over a year ago, it is good to meet up with our Almoner, Liveryman Caroline Walsh, for lunch and a chat at Woolwich Arsenal today.

Caroline was one of a number of Liverymen who volunteered to do something to assist the Company when we undertook a membership survey in early 2016. Her role involves keeping in touch with Liverymen who celebrate significant birthdays, are ill or have experienced bereavement. It is an important role and one which is so much appreciated by the recipients of her messages.

COMMITTEE MEETING: 12 DECEMBER 2017

The Freedom and Livery Committee is the Plumber's senior Committee and today's meeting discusses a wide range of important topics including future succession and the badges which are worn by Liverymen and officers of the Company. It is good to see progress being made on several issues- including some which will be referred to the next Court meeting towards the end of January 2018.

COMPANY CAROL SERVICE: 12 DECEMBER 2017

The Plumbers' Carol Service has often been described as "the perfect start to the Christmas season" and, ignoring the fact that the Oxford Street lights have been shining brightly since last month, tonight's celebration of Christmas does seem to be appropriate. It is well attended by Liverymen, their families and some guests (including our two new Chelsea Pensioner friends, Ray and John who look resplendent in their scarlets).



It is lovely to see the Company Chaplain, Liveryman Father Philip Warner back in action after a period of ill health and we continue to wish Philip all good wishes in the recovery process.

The Busheyhall String Quartet kindly offered to play as the congregation gathered (over glasses of mulled wine) before the service and again after the service during the buffet supper. Their contribution is much appreciated. Organist John Eady is in good form as indeed are the choir under the leadership of Lottie Bagnall. Their rendition of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" from the chancel (rather than their usual home in the organ loft) goes down well. The Master Plumber even played a short organ voluntary as the offering was being undertaken.



All in all, this is a very happy evening and a perfect way to round off 2017 for the current Master and Mistress, this being their last official engagement of the year.

This will be the last blog of the year and it is anticipated that the next edition will be posted on or around 12 January 2018 by which time the official calendar is due to have restarted.