



The Master's Christmas Message December 2023

Dear Liverymen & Friends,

At Christmas, as we enjoy the celebrations, we often recall those no longer with us. Kathy and I have both seen our mothers leave us in the last three years. We still miss them very much but are comforted to sense that they are just in the next room. Many of you will have departed loved ones in your minds, and we are thinking of you and hoping you find comfort, and a few smiles, through your fond memories.

I've had a few conversations with my Mum and Dad, down on the IoW, as my year as Master has unfolded. They would have been gleeful to know that Kathy and I are enjoying our time so much, and they would have been eager to reflect with us on how we are striving, in small ways, to help look after a 650-year-old organisation and shape its future.

They would share Kathy's and my gratitude to you our fellow Plumbers, your families, our wonderful staff, our excellent stewards, and our wise wardens for the support you have given us since we began. You are an amazing source of energy and guidance that keeps us on the road and motoring forward with light hearts and a sense that a series of destinations will be reached safely in the months ahead. Thank you.

We have seen already some super turnouts at events large and small, not least the Carol Service, full of fellowship and geniality, ably led by our friends at St Magnus the Martyr, and warmly hosted by our stewards. We were blessed also by a memorable Ladle Dinner where we were able to give thanks for the year of leadership and friendship given us by Paul & Sue Nash.

The world is greatly challenged to create an environment fit for our children and our children's children and we pray that governments, the UN, and others, may take the right steps through COP28 and beyond, against a backcloth of tragic conflict in Ukraine, the Middle East, and elsewhere. We all must hope that good counsel and peace can prevail.

Disregarding Victor Borge's quip that "Santa Claus has the right idea – visit people only once a year!", Kathy and I wish you a restful, happy Christmas with family and friends. As we all step with anticipation into a fresh new year, we look forward to being with you at the many exciting events in the Plumbers' calendar for 2024.

With warm good wishes,