



As each year draws to a close, we often say that the last 12 months have been more extraordinary than the previous 12, and perhaps that is true for 2024 - the year of elections. I hope that you can look back with fond memories of last year and look forward with hope and optimism to the New Year. Penny and I have enjoyed some great fellowship in good company at our own Plumbers' events and functions and more widely throughout the Livery as a whole and I hope that you have too. Of particular relevance for us, and the start to the Festive Season, was our marvellously organised and well attended Christmas Carol Service at St Magnus the Martyr - it was good to see so many of you there - and thank you to the Stewards who did such a grand job.

My most special recent highlight has to be an audience with HM the King at Sandringham at which representatives from the Plumbers' and Gardeners' Companies formally presented to the King the lead cast planters created by the hard-working team from our own Museum Workshop Trust in Amberley to commemorate their Majesties' Coronation. His Majesty expressed enormous delight with, and thanks for, the Planters which have been seated either side of the east doors of the House, and look very special now that the Gardeners' plants have fully bedded in.

Penny and I have just returned from 24 hours in Sheffield attending the Brigantes Winter Gathering. A really interesting talk on the history of the "humble fork" was followed by a short tour of the magnificent Cutlers' Hall and its collections: well worth a visit if you are passing by. A reception and early evening supper was taken before we attended a magical Carol Concert in Sheffield Cathedral. More than 60 Livery Companies were represented at the event which showed that fellowship in the Livery world abounds no matter where you are.

Penny and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We much look forward to seeing you at our future events and functions throughout 2025.

***from The Master, Charles Brooks***

**The Worshipful Company of Plumbers**

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