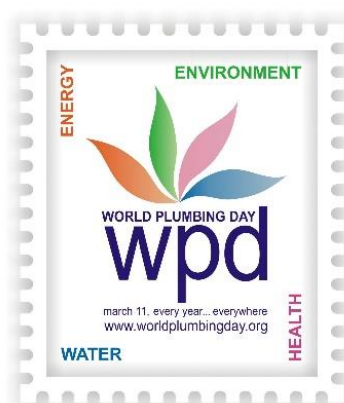


## MASTER'S MESSAGE FOR WORLD PLUMBING DAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024



Dear Liverymen of the Plumbers' Company and Friends,

***At the Worshipful Company of Plumbers on World Plumbing Day we celebrate a bright and positive future in the UK trade by announcing our Annual Bursary Competition winners.***

We received 172 applications this year (a big increase on 2023) from plumbing apprentices supported by their colleges and employers. We are striving to achieve greater EDI in our competition's processes, and this year two of the six winners identifying as female.

The names and colleges of the 2024 Bursary winners are shown below. They have already been told of their success and will receive £1,000 worth of vouchers to buy plumbing tools:

1. Daniel from Dundee & Angus Kingsway College
2. Teresa from Borders College
3. Sam from St Helens Green Energy Centre
4. Adnan from Windsor Forest, Langley Campus
5. Morgan from South Lanarkshire College
6. Sam from Kendal College

We offer our warm congratulations to all of them!

And we thank Monument Tools for sponsoring the six awards and for their major contribution to the organisation of the Annual Bursary Competition.

I look forward to presenting our winners with their Awards at our Annual Lecture in May or at the Installers' Show on 27<sup>th</sup> June. These early-career professionals are the future of our industry, and we wish them great success in their already promising careers.

### **PURPOSE OF WORLD PLUMBING DAY**

The theme for my year, 'International & Environmental', aligns well with World Plumbing Day. WPD was created by the World Plumbing Council when led by Past Master Plumber, Robert Burgon, and first celebrated in 2010. It remains an important WPC objective to bring together people from inside and outside the plumbing industry to connect, collaborate and learn so that good plumbing is recognised everywhere for improving water quality, sanitation, and health.

## **GOALS OF WORLD PLUMBING DAY**

The specific goals of WPD are:

To raise awareness of the positive health-related outcomes of plumbing that may be taken for granted.

To concentrate on communities that need more and better plumbing to raise living standards and improve health.

To promote innovative, green plumbing to improve the world and combat global warming.

To recognise the skills and dedication of those who work in plumbing.

## **PLUMBING'S GLOBAL CHALLENGE**

Plumbing is an integral part of everyday life but often goes unrecognised. Taking a shower, drinking clean water, enjoying air-conditioning, flushing the toilet are only possible when good plumbers install good systems.

But there are still many people around the world who lack access to basic plumbing services which impacts living standards and makes communities more vulnerable to water poverty and ill health.

We recall the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all". There is much to be done: 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water, 3.5 billion people lack safely managed sanitation, and 2.2 billion people lack safely managed hand washing facilities. Today 1.9 billion people live in severely water-scarce areas - with climate change this figure could increase to 3 billion by 2050. There are many excellent programmes in place to address these challenges, but they require major cross-national cooperation and investment.

Good plumbing is also increasingly essential to meet the environmental challenge of global warming. Against a backdrop of increasing incidents of drought, flooding, and natural disasters, sustainable low-carbon plumbing & heating/cooling solutions are a key response.

## **THE WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL TODAY**

The World Plumbing Council aims to unite our industry internationally and to promote its role in safeguarding public health and the environment. At the World Plumbing Conference in Shanghai in October 2023 the new Chair, David Viola, said "Advancing vital goals in workforce development, workplace diversity, spotlighting skills, and showcasing the awesome benefits of plumbing to humankind will be a priority for my term." WPC will hold their next international conference in Birmingham UK in June 2026; the Worshipful Company of Plumbers will, I am sure, be involved.

I wish you all a healthy and safe World Plumbing Day!

With all thanks,



Plumbers' Master