

Dear all

A very big thanks to all involved in the virtual Rose & Sweet Pea Show – all who helped, participated, donated, entered competitions, bought tickets... and especially to Ted Fisk, who inspired and hunted down the website to run it, ably assisted by Jan Fisk and Ryan Overson. Our apologies that it did not run quite as planned.

Competition prize winners have been announced on Facebook. The full list, including runners-up, will be posted with the prize list, and prizes will be delivered as soon as can be arranged. A list of winners will be posted on the church noticeboard in the porch, and may be seen when the church is open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 10.00am – 3.00pm.

Thanks to all who got behind this light-hearted attempt to continue our long-standing tradition.

Through a friend, I have just discovered a new Facebook page. It's really rather bizarre. It's called 'Rate My Plate' – the idea being that you post a picture of a meal you have prepared, and people comment about it. The comments are generally utterly brutal. Those who put their meals up expect to get slated – the aim, it appears, is to get the most imaginatively cutting comments possible. A classic is this one – *Looks like the last three ingredients left in the house, with a generous sprinkling of sadness and unfulfilled potential.*

Someone else posted pâté on toast (i.e. simply spread some shop-bought pâté on a slice of buttered toast) and was rewarded with *This looks fabulous, can you share the recipe so we can all try and have a go...*

Amazingly, or perhaps not, 2,558,747 people like the page, and 2,619,715 people follow it.

I'm really not sure what to make of this, and whether it is good or bad. All my teaching career I taught the importance of being encouraging and positive. And the gift of encouragement is one of the gifts of the Spirit. Society, especially both mainstream and social media, delights in destruction, even if having previously put on a pedestal – think of its treatment of Harry & Meghan. This should not be a mark of the Christian.

And yet, people who post on this site know what will happen. They collude, and perhaps relish in the comments they get. It's a bit of fun, isn't it? It's just a bit of banter...

We all know where that mentality can lead to!

For those who have been following Nick Fawcett's coronavirus prayers, you will have noted that Nick completed the 100 planned on 23rd June. I have featured a selection in my messages. I attach a pdf Nick has released of [all 100 prayers](#).

If you wish to follow Nick in his other musings, prayers etc., you can find him on <https://nickfawcett.uk/>

Nadia Bolz-Weber offers this prayer in her slightly spikier way. She invites us to add our own thanks...

Give Us This Day Our Daily Gratitude

That I have been given one more day, I give thanks.

That the birds still sing each morning, impossibly early outside my window, I give thanks.

For the sun rising once again in the East, I give thanks.
That for this day I have bread, I give thanks.
For drinkable water, for breathable air, and Dairy Queen dipped cones I give thanks.
For one more day of mobility I give thanks.
For novelists who create worlds and characters and stories for our minds and not for our TVs, I give thanks.
For the puppy I got at the beginning of quarantine who is currently destroying my life, I give thanks.
For cell phone reception, and I-guess-its-better-than-nothing ZOOM calls and reliable internet service, I give thanks.
That I am loved, I give thanks
That I am forgiven, I give thanks.
That I am alive, I give thanks.
That you, O God are known by many names, I give thanks.
That you, O God are present when I feel only your absence I give thanks.
That you are God and I am not, I give the most thanks. Forgive me when I forget that one.
And for every other gift I am too self-obsessed to see, but that totally comes from you -Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
Amen.



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark