

Awards for all

Let's be honest, there is no way you can use this eucharist in its present form! To coincide with the Oscars, we were looking at the fact that God loves and values us all. So the idea is that everyone in the congregation that day would receive an award for a faintly ridiculous aspect of their personality. But it does show that even around the communion table, there is no need for worship to be pompous or solemn. Why shouldn't worship be fun? Mind you, I don't think Clare has ever forgiven me for labelling her as "Glamorous Assistant!"

Ladies and Gentlemen...

and for those of you who are not so hung up about titles and ceremonies, men, women, boys, girls, cats, dogs, footballers, ballet dancers, teachers, detectives, film stars, rabbits and elephants... (in other words YOU)...

Welcome to this very special occasion, the two thousand and ninth Academy of Miraculous Parables annual awards ceremony for... well — anything we want to give out awards for, really!

So without any ado, I'll hand straight over to my glamorous assistant to present the first award.

Thanks Washed Up Career's Over. Our first award this evening is a celebration of creativity. In this modern world, we over-use the word 'creative,' so it's good to be able to celebrate all that is really creative in our industry.

The nominations for creator of the year are:

Beth Presswood for creating really weird things.

Microsoft for nicking every idea that Apple ever had.

Joel McBeath for making fabulous R2D2 jack in the boxes

And the winner of the Creator of the Year award is...

[open envelope]

Well what a surprise. The winner is God - who wasn't even nominated!

Wow - God. For the two thousand and ninth year running, God wins the award for creator of the year.

Sadly, although God can be with us this morning, God doesn't do acceptance speeches, so God asked me to accept this speech on God's behalf. And of course, God doesn't want to thank anyone because when God started creating everything, there wasn't anyone to thank and now that there is someone to thank, then God must have created that person, so God can't really thank them for helping God to create the person God is thanking for helping God to create that person.

So let's move swiftly on to our next award. The award for Best Original Thinking.

Our nominations in this category showcase some of the most innovative work in the business. People who go where no man — or woman — has been before.

Beth Presswood gets her second nomination of the day for being weird.

Andy McBeath for believing you can build an allotment one-handed

And - oh wow - it's me! Me for writing prayers that only God can understand!

And the winner of the general all round wierdness award is:

[open envelope]

BETH PRESSWOOD!

Sadly, Beth can be here tonight, so Beth, if you'd like to come forward and collect your award

Our third award this morning is the award for the funniest joke.

This award celebrates humour in all its forms. From the wry chuckle to the riotous guffaw.

Our nominations come from all parts of the industry.

First, David Collins for that witty remark he made the other Thursday.

Next, Tim Presswood for the daft idea of this award ceremony eucharist

Thirdly, Joel McBeath for going on endlessly about Captain Underpants.

And the winner is:

[open envelope]

Joel McBeath for going on endlessly about Captain Underpants.

Now we move on to one of the lesser known awards. Less brash and flashy than the others, but perhaps all the more important for that. I'm talking, of course, about the best supporting specialness award.

Supporting specialness is that category of wonderfulness without which we couldn't carry on.

Our nominations this year are

Imogen McBeath - for putting up with Beth and Joel, when they are being particularly noisy.

David Collins - for going along with all Clare and Tim's mad ideas of what church should be all about

Clare McBeath - because it's Mother's Day and she hasn't had an award yet!

[open envelope]

And the winner is:

Clare McBeath - because it's Mother's Day and she hasn't had an award yet!

Oh, wow! I never expected that. So I'll move right on with our next award, the award for dancer of the year.

Sadly, this had been a controversial award this year as the judges had to disqualify Samantha Warner because she hasn't been to church for so long. She's too busy doing her GCSE dancing.

But our three nominees represent the best that dance has to offer in this church.

They are:

Imogen McBeath for always being ready to whirl around the floor

Joel McBeath for his innate sense of rhythm

David Collins for the strange dancing patterns in his mind

[open envelope]

And the winner is - well this really is a surprise because he never gets out of his chair during our songs - it's only DAVID COLLINS for the dancing patterns in his mind!

So, glamorous assistant, where are we up to?

Well, washed up has been, it's time for the Spotify award for geeky humour.

Now, Bill Bailey has won this award so many times that we have disqualified him this year.

So, our nominations this year are:

Joel McBeath for that hilarious Captain Underpants comic

Andy McBeath for his riotous portrayal of the Übergeek

Tim-Presswood-for-his-faintly-pathetic-attempt-to-justify-this-nonsense-on-a-theological-basis-by-pretending-that-it-has-anything-to-do-with-the-fact-that-Jesus-treats-each-one-of-us-as-special-by-dying-for-us-on-the-cross.

And the winner is

[open envelope]

Oh no, I knew he'd make me say all this again -

it's Tim-Presswood-for-his-faintly-pathetic-attempt-to-justify-this-nonsense-on-a-theological-basis-by-pretending-that-it-has-anything-to-do-with-the-fact-that-Jesus-treats-each-one-of-us-as-special-by-dying-for-us-on-the-cross.

I don't know what to say. So for once, I'll say nothing and pass straight on to our penultimate award of the afternoon - the PatienceofaSaint Award.

This award is given out each year to the person who displays the most patience, steadfastness, perseverance and long-suffering.

Just to be nominated in this category is honour enough since you have to put up with not winning and show a totally unbelievable delighted smile when you lose the award.

So, our nominations are:

Imogen McBeath - for sitting patiently and waiting for her award

Beth Presswood - for getting her award right at the beginning and still sitting patiently

Andy McBeath - for somehow going along with all this nonsense and pretending that it all makes sense somehow.

[open envelope]

Yes - I'm delighted with this one. It's Andy McBeath.

So glamorous assistant, we come to the final award of the afternoon. The lifetime achievement award. As you know, each year the judges choose someone really special who has never won an award before and try to make it up to them by giving them an award which is supposed to be even more special than all the special awards that everyone else has just received.

Who is it this year, Glamorous Assistant?

Thanks old, bald hasbeen actor [flash sarcastic Hollywood smile]. And what a lifetime it has been. We've seen some of the most special moments in being special since being specialness began. So it comes as no surprise to announce to you that the recipient of this year's "Being a special person in a special life" category is, the one and only - she may be the youngest person here, so here lifetime achievements are fewer than other people's because she's had less life to achieve them in, but it's still a lifetime of specialness from IMOGEN MCBEATH!

Well, we've almost come to the end of our eucharistic celebration of special uniqueness. But before we go, it's only right and proper that we should remember and commemorate all those who are not here this morning.

[sincerely]

Yes, indeed, DesperatelyHopingThisAppearanceWillReviveYourCareerHaHalt'sAllOverForYou, we must remember that these awards are not just about receiving awards, but they are all about the fact that God loves each and every one of us in a special and unique way.

So special and unique that Jesus died for us on the cross

And not just for us, WashedUpOldMan, Jesus died for everyone, so in a strangely out of place moment of sincerity at the end of our awards, let's remember that as we meet people who didn't get an award tonight, we should treat them as just as special as Jesus would.

Yes indeed Glamourous. And on that patronisingly moralising note, I think we should draw this awards ceremony to a close before the ratings drop any further.

So it's Goodnight from me

And it's Good Afternoon from me.

GOOD MORNING ALL!

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