

What if ... 2024 was to be a year of peace? We all can do something to achieve that, as we work for peace in our communities and homes and places of work.

What if ... 2024 was to be a year of justice? Again, we can all work for that as we give voice to the poor, as we serve and meet human need.

What if ... 2024 was to be a year of stronger families? We can do something about that too as we give attention to our families and show them just how much we love them and just how much we care.

What if ... 2024 was to be the year when you explored a little bit deeper, to live your life with Jesus Christ and to know the assurance - the joy - that comes from following Him and knowing that your future is safe in Him.

I hope you all have a really Happy New Year and a good 2024. And I hope that this can be a year when you can see that, in Jesus, things will all go right.

Rt Rev Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn

Charlotte and Ed

Bank Details

Please continue to support your church
You can make direct payments or set up standing orders to St Barnabas using the following details

St Barnabas Heapey Parish Church
Unity Trust Bank
Sort Code 60-83-01
Account Number 20486060
giftaid it Please ask for a Gift Aid form

Prayer meeting 9.30 am every Wednesday at St Paul's

CY - 7.00 pm at St Paul's, Withnell
Every Thursday - Contact Gary Bullock for details

Jammy Little Fingers every Friday at St Paul's
10.00 to 11.00 am Contact Carolyn Bullock for details

Wednesdays' Ladies Bible Study & Women's Fellowship
Contact Carolyn Bullock for details

January Services

Sun 7th	9.30am	Family Service	
		James Ch 1 v 2-18	
Sun 14th	9:30am	Family Communion	
		James Ch 1 v 19-27	
Sun 21st	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Junior Church
		James Ch 2 v 1-13	
Sun 28th	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Junior Church
		James Ch 2 v 14-26	

Donations

26th November	£48.65	Book money
26th November	£32.60	Anon cash donations from baptism of Ewan David Berry
26th November	£200.00	Baptism of Ewan David Berry
10th December	£20.00	Anon donation towards laptop
10th December	£100.00	Loving memory of Robert Jolly from Dad & Mum
17th December	£15.00	In memory of Alice Blacklidge from Cicely
17th December	£100.00	Loving memory of Betty
17th December	£6.40	Plant sales

From the registers

Nothing

Who's Who at Heapey St Barnabas

Vicar	Currently in an Interregnum
Curate	The Revd Gary Bullock
Churchwardens	Charlotte Nickson Ed Holding
PCC Secretary	Ed Holding
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Holding
Sunday School	Nicola Peach
Mother's Union	Avril Fowler
Church Email	stbarnabasheapey@gmail.com



Church Email:
stbarnabasheapey@gmail.com

January 2024

A prayer for the appointment of a new Vicar

Heavenly Father,
Please guard and grow the churches of this
benefice as we serve together. Please guide and
protect those who are responsible for the
appointment of a new vicar, that they may work
together for the good of your church and the
glory of your name.
May they be faithful to your word, discerning in
their work and prayerful in their decisions.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Visit and talk by well known conservationist, David Beattie.

On 14th January David will be coming to St Barnabas during our family service, to talk to us about nature and the importance of caring for God's creation.

David's visit in 2022 to help us with our "bioblitz" nature survey gave us a fascinating insight into what lives in our churchyard.

The children particularly enjoyed a furry bank vole, which David caught, and they were able to see and appreciate up close.

We look forward to welcoming David once again. This will be a talk for the whole family, which we hope the children will particularly enjoy

Benefice Websites:

<https://heapeychurch.wixsite.com/heapeychurch>
<https://stpaulswithnell.wixsite.com/withnell>

Heapey Facebook: [StBarnabas Heapey](#)

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

Below we have printed Bishop Philip's New Year Message 2024

I remember some years ago reading a book to a group of children called 'The What If Monster'. The What If Monster whispered into children's ears fears of doom and dread and so infected every situation.

What if I get scared? What if I get lost? What if it all goes wrong?

Now that may have been a children's book, but it seems to me the What If Monster has been quite busy in our world in recent years with stories and fears of dread and doom and perhaps, as 2024 begins, the What If Monster has got himself busy with you?

What if ... these terrible conflicts we are seeing in Gaza and Ukraine, spill over and become global configurations?

What if ... the fragile seeds of economic recovery come to nothing?

What if ... fuel prices rocket again and give us all trouble with our finances?

What if ... the big elections coming up in 2024 in this country and in the United States increase social division?

What if ... there is another pandemic?

What if it all goes wrong? What if ...? What if ...? What if ...?

It is so easy to make ourselves feel anxious and afraid with those fears. I was struck in contrast, therefore, by a picture which was given to me by a friend early this year. It says, '...but what if it all goes right?' Now, if you take off the 'what if' that's actually quite a powerful statement of the Christian faith, because Christians believe that it WILL all go right.

It will all go right because of the child whose birth we have just been celebrating, Jesus Christ. Jesus grows up to give his life away upon the cross and, as Jesus dies, He destroys death and sin and evil and all that is at enmity with human flourishing.

And so he rises again to a whole new way of life; a new creation. In Jesus we know the future. In Jesus we know that we are safe in Him. In Jesus we know that it will all go right. And it is in that calm, assurance and that confidence in the future can reach its way back to fill our present with joy.

So what would it mean to live 2024 through another set of 'what ifs'? 'What ifs', not of dread and doom but 'what ifs' of joy.

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