

We are in the category of 'those who have not seen'. None of us was there to see the empty tomb or the risen Lord Jesus. So how can we believe?

John the gospel writer tells us that his record of Jesus is sufficient evidence for us (who were not there on that first Easter Sunday) to be able to make the same confession as Thomas: 'My Lord and my God'. Once we make that confession, life is never quite the same again.

With credit to Rev Canon Andrew Raynes, Vicar of Blackburn Christ Church.

Charlotte and Ed



Discipleship Explored helps followers of Jesus turn up the gospel soundtrack to their lives.

It's easy to make a list of the things Christians do — go to church, read the Bible, pray, share the gospel — but that doesn't really tell us much about what the experience of following Jesus is actually like.

That's where Discipleship Explored comes in.

The series is based on the Bible book of Philippians and is full of human stories from every continent about the reality of being a Christian in today's world. Discipleship Explored invites us on a journey to discover a new way of living, centred on incredible love.

The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study, a talk (you can give your own using our talk outlines or use our films) and a discussion based on the talk.

Led by Chris Metcalfe (Vision Champion) and Gary Bullock (Curate)

Fortnightly Wednesday sessions before Summer Holidays are on

16 April, 1 May, 15 May, 5 June, 19 June, 3 July, 17 July.

All sessions are at **7.30pm** held at Chris & Deborah Metcalfe's home, **The Railway, 1 Coppice Lane**, Heapey, Chorley, PR6 8TF

If you would like to come, it would be helpful if you could let Chris know by emailing: cm.metcalfe@gmail.com

April Services

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Sun 7th | 9.30am | Family Service | No Junior Church |
| | | Acts Ch 15 v 1-5, 25-35 | |
| Sun 14th | 9:30am | Holy Communion | Junior Church |
| | | Acts Ch 16 v 6-10 | |
| Sun 21st | 9:30am | Morning Prayer | Junior Church |
| | | Acts Ch 16 v 11-15 | |
| Sun 28th | 9:30am | Holy Communion | Junior Church |
| | | Acts Ch 16 v 16-34 | |

Readers

We need more readers for our services. If you would like to volunteer please see a churchwarden.

Donations

17th March £150.70 Book money

From the registers

Nothing

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

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 |

Appointment of a Vicar

April is an important month for us. (A year after Alan retired). Applications for the post of vicar must be received by 2nd April. On the 8th, the churchwardens will be involved, with Diocese representatives, in shortlisting. Interviews will be held on 22nd of April.

It has taken many months to arrive at this stage and we hope to have good news for the May newsletter.

Ed

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



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

Benefice Websites:

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

Heapey Facebook: [StBarnabas Heapey](#)



Church Email:
stbarnabasheapey@gmail.com

April 2024

Dear Friends,

An interesting introduction to this article!

Seeing Jesus (John Ch 20 v 1-18)

It was in 1930 that the 23-year-old Alfred Wainwright first visited the Lake District from his home in Blackburn

He got off the train at Windermere and climbed the path towards Orrest Head. Many years later, he wrote, '... quite suddenly we emerged from the trees and were on a bare headland, and as though a curtain had dramatically been torn aside, beheld a truly magnificent view.' Once he'd seen that view, life was never quite the same again.

On Easter Sunday, we mark an event that has been life-changing for millions of people over the last twenty centuries: the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The theme of seeing (and failing to see) is important to John's gospel. His account of the resurrection is given to us through the experiences of eye-witnesses.

So, in verse 1, Mary arrived at the tomb of Jesus and 'saw that the stone had been removed' from the entrance.'

Assuming that the body has been taken, she runs to Peter and John. They are also eyewitnesses of the empty tomb. Significantly, when John saw, he 'believed' (v8).

Every time the word 'saw' is used in this chapter, it gets stronger and stronger.

Later in the day Mary herself encounters the risen Lord himself. She went to the Disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord' (v18)

On the same evening the disciples 'were overjoyed when they saw the Lord' (v20),

The one person who famously did not see the Lord on that day was Thomas, who initially refuses to believe unless he could see with his own eyes (v25).

His confession of Jesus as 'my Lord and my God' is arguably the climax of the whole gospel.

And Jesus' response to this confession is 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' (v29)

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