

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402  
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**APRIL 2024**  
Volume 90, Issue 8

## Anglican Evensongs

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

As anticipated last month, Angie and I made our trip to England and Wales. We managed to get our big suitcase checked at the airport at 49.5 pounds, narrowly avoiding a surcharge. I did ok health-wise despite nursing a sore and swollen leg, but was not to be deterred from enjoying the time. We watched several of Jenna's basketball games, meeting her teammates and soaking in Cardiff's university sport culture. In the midst of it all I found my spirituality nurtured in some significant ways.

One of my requests for the trip was to visit Oxford, England for my birthday. Regents Park University, affiliated with the British Baptist Union, has their own little slice of academia there. I previously heard Dr. Paul Fiddes through the Baptist World Alliance meetings. He is perhaps the foremost living Baptist theologian and the retired Principal there. He invited us to have lunch at the school, so we found their quadrangle and met him there. When the dinner bell rang, students and "fellows" of the school gathered around wooden tables and we enjoyed "sausage and mash"(ed potatoes). Paul apologized for the simple fare, but I relished the fact that we got to experience just what a student might. Their college holds one of the best archives of Baptist history, and scholars from around the world come to visit (perhaps an idea for a sabbatical someday!).

In Oxford we were encouraged to attend an Evensong at a college chapel, so we put that on the agenda. In contrast to the simplicity of our Baptist college there, we saw in New College Chapel the lavish and ornate historical architecture for which Oxford is famous—and the kind of sites where Harry Potter's Hogwarts scenes were filmed. The Evensong tradition is the nightly service written into the old Book of Common Prayer.

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With Dr. Paul Fiddes at Regents Park University

In select places the prayers and biblical texts are sung or chanted by a choir or cantors. Oxford still has a few "singing colleges" where Evensong is practiced—though it was once almost universal there. These days a handful of people gather in magnificent candlelit sanctuaries to listen to the beautiful and quiet tones of prayer eloquently presented by talented musicians and leaders.

After New Chapel I made my way to Magdalen College, familiar as the school where C. S. Lewis taught literature. It started at 9:00 pm, and jet lag being a thing, Angie took a break. I sat by a man from Denmark and we struck up conversation. James was visiting with the intention of going to J. R. R. Tolkien's grave the next day, so we were kindred spirits.

(cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

After the lovely "Shrove Tuesday" service, we were offered lemon crepes in a fellowship room afterward. It was quite a time of reflection on the unity of so many people through the ages, famous to ordinary—and I felt myself somehow very included.

Llandaff Cathedral is the seat of Anglicanism in Cardiff, Wales, and we took in yet one more Evensong there. The sanctuary is surrounded by crypts and sarcophagi of saints and bishops. We think our hall of pastor portraits goes back a ways at 200 years—they have a list of bishops going back to the 800's AD! We saw graffiti on some of the tombs carved with knives with the date 1629, when Cromwell's army took over the cathedral in the British Civil War and defaced some of the statuary. The cathedral had rebuilt its roof and replaced its stained glass with plain after it was bombed in WW II. And in the midst of the historical a living congregation worships and works there today. Signs reminded us that \$1500 per day of donations is required to keep the cathedral afloat—a budget not so far afield from our own. A boys choir (augmented with a handful of adults), the kind you hear on British broadcasts for special occasions, led Llandaff's Evensong service. As the voices soared in a climactic "Amen," I found my eyes tearing up with the powerful beauty of the moment.

As I contemplate some of what I gained there, I am mindful of the beauty of ending a day in prayer and worship. To reflect on what has been done and left undone, to turn over oneself to God before retiring for the night, is a blessed thing indeed. One can't but help feel a sense of completion, and in the morning a sense of fresh start again. The psalmist says he calls out to God "evening, morning and at noon," "and God will hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17). May we cultivate regular habits of worship and reflection that speak to God and listen for the voice of God as well.

--Pastor Kent

*(more trip photos in insert)*



## Eclipse Watch Party

Hosted by FBC & CEC

Monday, April 8  
1-4pm

First Baptist Church Parking Lot  
111 W Monument Ave

Our friends at Christ Episcopal had the wonderful idea for our churches to share the solar eclipse experience together on April 8<sup>th</sup> by hosting a watch party here on our church grounds. We will designate space in our parking lot near the river for folks to set up chair and blankets. And we'll offer some hot dogs, beverages, and general hospitality. We'll also have a limited number of eclipse watch glasses on-hand. This is an informal event, open to the community. We hope you will join us, and that the sky will be good and clear!

## First Baptist's Bicentennial Keepsake



The First Baptist Church of Dayton's Bicentennial is on our minds and hearts this year. We have a special keepsake to commemorate this historic event! It is a beautiful wooden replica of our church (5"3/8" high x 7 1/2" wide).

**We will be selling and taking orders April 7 to 21.** A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall where you may sign up for how many keepsakes you would like to purchase. The price will be \$10 each and may be picked up after payment.

We are blessed and honored to follow those who have led the way in the Dayton community for 200 years. May we be a blessing to those in the future of First Baptist Church of Dayton.

## Garden Report



Daffodils and tulips blooming are always a sign of the resurrection as (winter) death awakes to new life! It is kind of like a phone alarm going off to let us know it is time to plant the FBC Love Your Neighbor Garden. We will begin our gardening year on **Saturday, April 6, at 10:30 a.m.** as we gather to plant onions, garlic and potatoes. Bring your garden gloves and a hand spade and join us on spring planting day!

We plant, God grows!  
*Pastor/Farmer Dave*

## BYF Gatherings in April 2024

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join our Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) gatherings, where we share in food, fellowship, reflection and fun times. Here are our upcoming gatherings in the month of April:

**BYF / Baptism Class Outing**  
 Sunday, April 14 @ 12:15-3:00pm

**BYF Gathering & Paint Party @ FBC**  
 Sunday, April 28 @ 12:15-2:30pm

Also, we would like to be sure to have updated information for our youth participants, and ask that parents turn in a completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation Form for each youth to Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcdayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcdayton.org) / 937-631-3579). Print copies are available outside the church office. Friends are always welcome, but we ask that they also turn in a BYF Form.

## April Church Meetings

**Heritage Committee**  
 Monday, April 1 @ 12-2pm

**Board Meetings**  
 Wednesday, April 10 @ 6:30pm

**Executive Council Meeting**  
 Wednesday, April 17 @ 6:30pm

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### APRIL CELEBRANTS

- 1 Kyle Brown, Ginger Tiffner
- 3 Ken Taylor
- 5 Shannon Brown, Benjamin Ryan
- 6 DeAnn Owens, Austin Williamson
- 7 Hannah Craig
- 8 Casey Gruszecki
- 12 Clo Ryan
- 13 Rachel Powell
- 14 Brad Kallenberg
- 15 Bill Gruszecki
- 16 Leon Charron
- 19 Robert Miles Curry
- 23 Debbie Smith, Mark Sutton
- 24 Doris Landis, Meredith Ryan
- 28 Bob Kerr, Gene Lee



*(Is your birthday not listed? Please contact the church office and let us update our records.)*

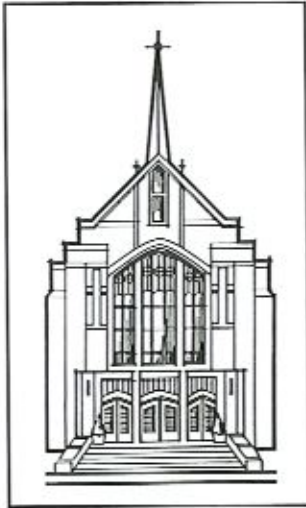
## Happy Anniversary!

Pastor David & Peggy Coggins celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 16th.

♥ **JUST MARRIED** ♥  
**40 YEARS AGO**

### February 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	30.00	166.67	135.01
Pledges	207794.00	22236.00	34632.34	48785.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	5390.00	9166.67	9260.00



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## *Celebration of Life* Mary K. Lee



Join Gene and the Lee Family in a celebration of life! Let's share our favorite memories of Mary K. as we take in the beautiful view of one of her favorite Englewood, OH spots—Englewood MetroPark next to Aullwood Garden.

Saturday, May 25, 2024 @ 12pm – 3pm  
Englewood MetroPark: East Park  
Shelter Name: Patty  
4361 W National Rd, Vandalia OH 45377  
Food and refreshments will be served.  
Dress code: Casual

**Please RSVP the number of guests in your party by April 7 to Mike Lee at [Mike.Kaylin.2016@gmail.com](mailto:Mike.Kaylin.2016@gmail.com)**

## For Our Cards and Prayers

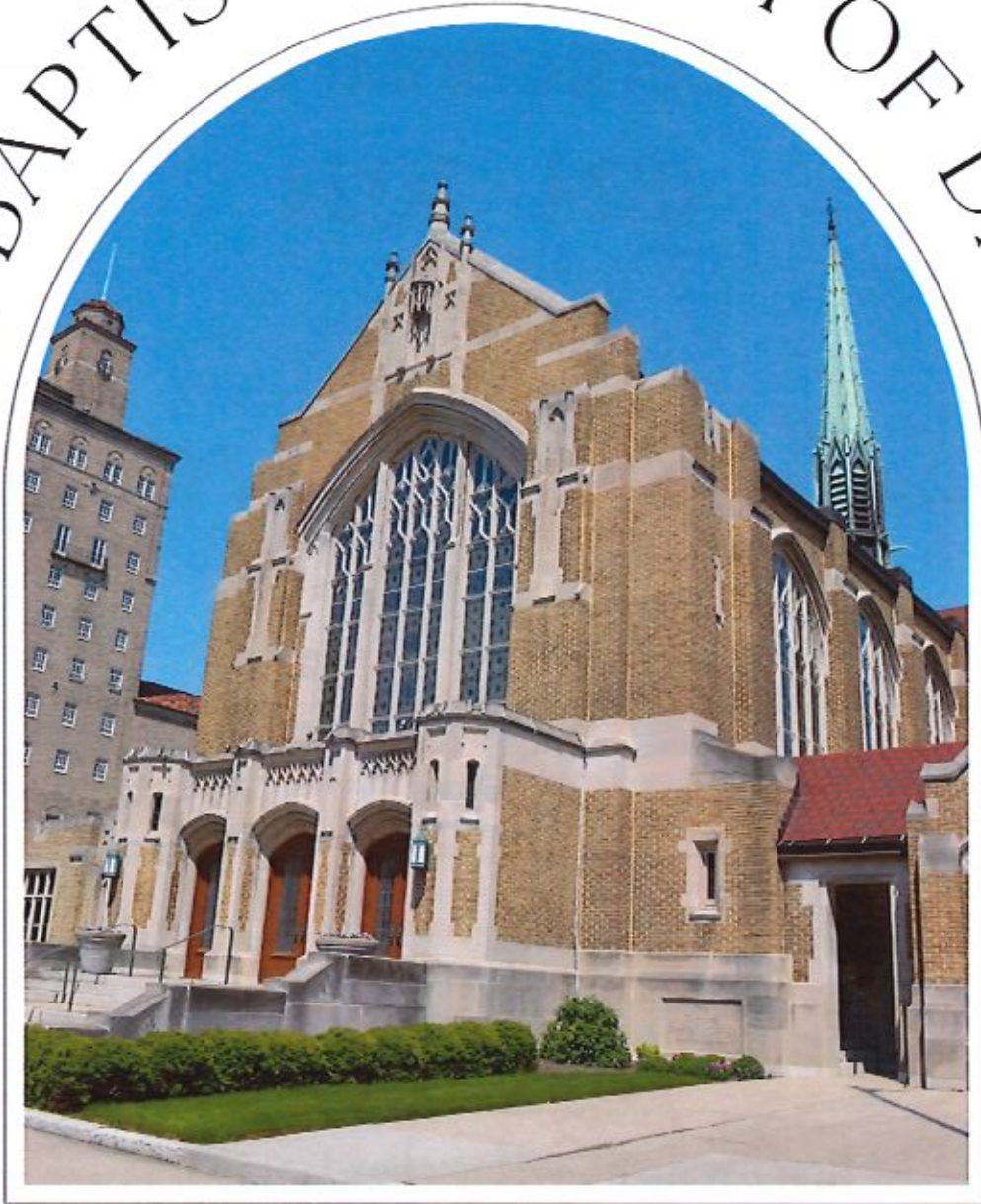


Glen Babb	Arthur Merkle
Clara Black	Shirley Nash
Gerald Busch	Mary Ann Paloncy
Don Brown	Susan Parent
Earnest Family	Judy Smith
Lavanda Ferguson	Roger Stephens
Bill Harrell	Anne Veghte
Tim Holmen	Harold West
Ray Landis	Dorothy Williams
Gene Lee	Sharon Wingham

### **Military Duty:**

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON



Bicentennial Celebration  
1824 - 2024

111 W. Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402

Please join the  
First Baptist Church of Dayton  
for their Bicentennial Celebration  
1824 - 2024

*Sunday, May 26, 2024*

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10:00 a.m. - Service

11:30 a.m. - Lunch

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Please RSVP to Linda Blair by

May 17, 2024

[lindablair@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:lindablair@fbcd Dayton.org)

(937) 222-4691

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First Baptist Church of Dayton  
111 W. Monument Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45402

## Adult Sunday School Classes

April & May 2024

### “Those Who Witness and Testify: Character Studies in John’s Gospel”

Led by The Rev. Kate Bradley  
April 7 – 28 @ 11:30am-12:15pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Chapel

The Fourth Gospel offers a vivid narrative aimed at instilling belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and guiding readers toward life in His name (John 20:31). By closely examining John's character portrayals—such as John “the Baptist,” Nicodemus, Peter, and Mary Magdalene—we gain deeper insight into the core themes and teachings John emphasizes about Jesus and the Christian journey. In this study, Kate Bradley will introduce us to these people *as John writes about them*. Following that, we'll engage in a close reading of a Scripture passage, which will serve as a springboard for personal discussions.

### Sermon Talkback

With The Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis  
April 7 @ 11:30am-12:15pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Choir Room

We continue to offer sermon talkbacks on the first Sunday of each month in the Choir Room. We hope you'll join us and share the questions, insights, challenges, etc. from your hearing of the morning's sermon.

### First Baptist Through the Years

Pastor Kent & Angie Berghuis  
May 5 - 19 @ 11:30am-12:15pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Chapel

During May Pastor Kent and Angie Berghuis will be presenting stories from our church's history during the adult Sunday School time. The class will meet for three Sundays from May 5-19. Pastor Kent will share an overview of the congregation from its beginnings to the present time. Angie has prepared a review of 1924, our centennial year, as told through articles that appeared in our local newspaper. She will share historical insights from the heyday of the church half-way between its founding and today. Come get a sense of who we are through where we've been, and think together of what it means for who we shall be in the future as well.

+

**Save the Dates!**

**VBS 2024**

***Church Stories: All Aboard!***

**July 8-12 @ 9:30am-Noon for Grades PreK-5**

This summer we are following up our 2023 theme—*Jesus Stories*—with stories from the Early Church and stories from our own local church. As we celebrate our Bicentennial year, one of the interesting pieces to our history is a connection to the chapel car ministry that took place between 1890 and 1946. And so, we're integrating stories of this ministry into our VBS curriculum. We'll have a great time together with games, crafts and music; and in hearing these stories of how people have sought to share the Gospel of God's love. All aboard!

A VBS Planning Team meeting will convene soon. If you are interested in helping out with VBS in some way, please contact Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) / 937-631-3579).

## Youth Summer Camps 2024

For several years now we have participated in two different summer camps for youth who have completed grades 6-12. Youth are welcome to participate in either or both camps, but we do ask that they be active in our church/youth group. Pastor Jason and other adults from our church act as chaperons and leaders, taking our groups to camp and being with them throughout the week. Through the Board of Christian Education our church provides generous financial support to send our youth to these camps. And this year, they have expressed a desire to cover 100% of the cost of camp, which is AMAZING! If you'd like to support our camping ministries, you can simply earmark donations to the church for "BYF Fund." If your youth(s) would like to register for BYC and/or Quest, if you have questions, etc. just contact with Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) / 937-631-3579). Pastor Jason will also be scheduling orientations for both camps soon!

### BYC

**June 30 – July 5: Laurel Ridge Camp - Laurel Springs, NC**

BYC is a progressive, youth-centered camp organized each year by a group of Alliance of Baptist and UCC affiliated churches from Ohio, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Adults from each of these covenanting churches plan and lead every aspect of camp. This year's theme will focus on stories of the early Church from *The Book of Acts*. And through youth-led worship, small group times, interest groups, games and more, we will explore what it means to be in such community today.

### QUEST

**July 14 – 19 @ Green Lake Conference Center – Green Lake, WI**

and

**Possible BYF Post-Camp Retreat – July 19-21 – Lake Sullivan, IN**

Quest is a youth camp organized by camp staff under the leadership of Director Heather Henson. It is designed in such a way that both youth and leaders from a variety of churches can have time to learn and explore the week's theme together amongst peers. The theme this year is JOY, focusing on Isaiah 22:12-13 as our theme scripture. Each day we'll be exploring how we find JOY, authentic joy, even in the midst of struggles, hardships, and difficulties. Like our BYC camp, there are times for fun and games together, such as large group field games, high ropes, small groups, and free time to explore the wider Green Lake Conference Center grounds.

**NEW!** The Tyson family has generously offered our group the use of their lake house on Lake Sullivan in Indiana. And so we are adding on two more days to our Quest Camp journey to have a post camp retreat with our youth. However, if adding these two days would prevent anyone's participation in Quest, please let Pastor Jason know. We can always do a retreat at the lake another time.

## FBC & Dayton Pride 2024

### *The Strength of the Gem*

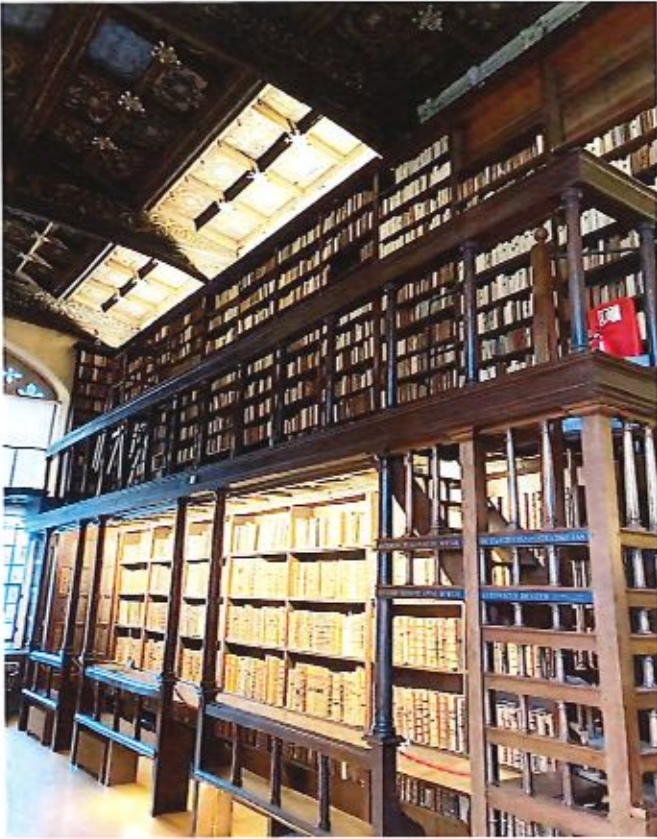
We are once again making plans to participate in Dayton Pride 2024, especially the Parade & Festival that will take place on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> (11am-4pm). There are lots of ways to help with walking in the parade, gathering/creating materials to share during the parade & festival, spending time at our festival booth to engage with folks from the community, and more. If you would like to help with our planning, please contact Pastor Jason (937-631-3579 / [jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org)).





## Photos from the FBC Family Album

From Kent & Angie's UK trip...

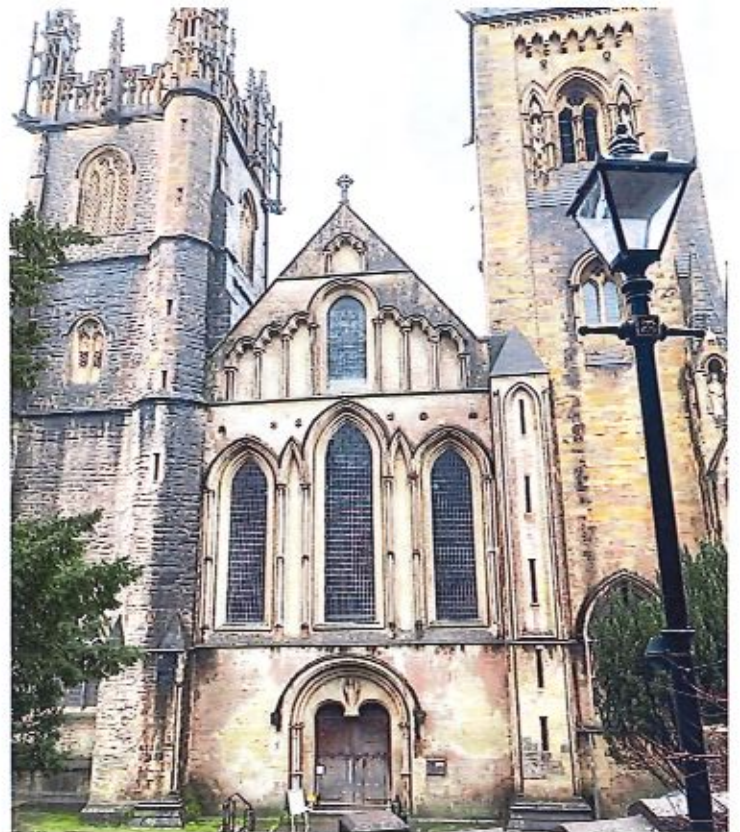


Evensong at Llandaff Cathedral

Bodleian Library, Divinity School  
at Oxford University



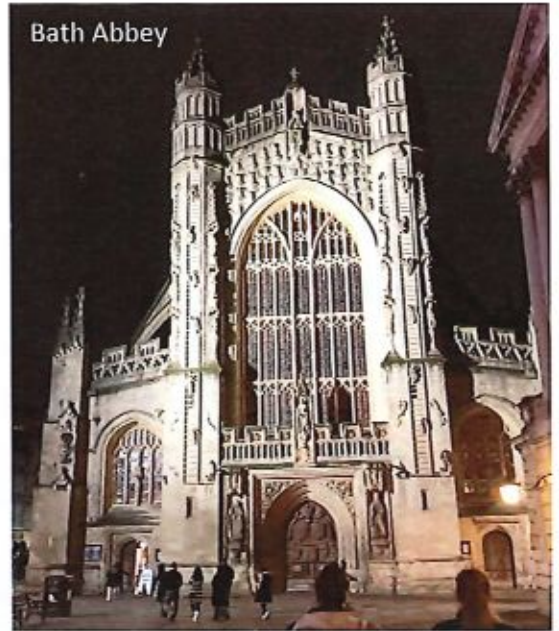
Pub where Lewis, Tolkien and the Inklings  
would hang out



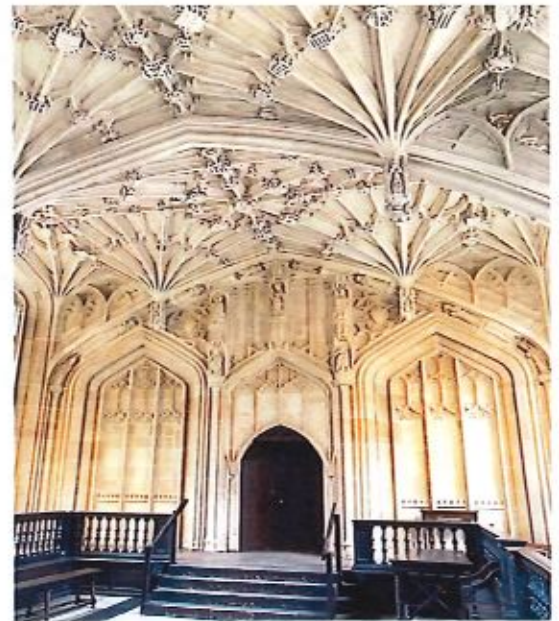
Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, Wales



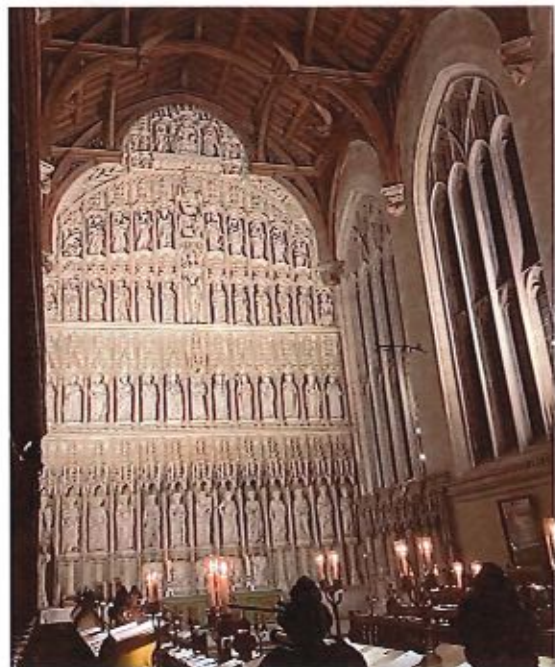
Sarcophagus of a Bishop and Wife, with Cromwell's Graffiti



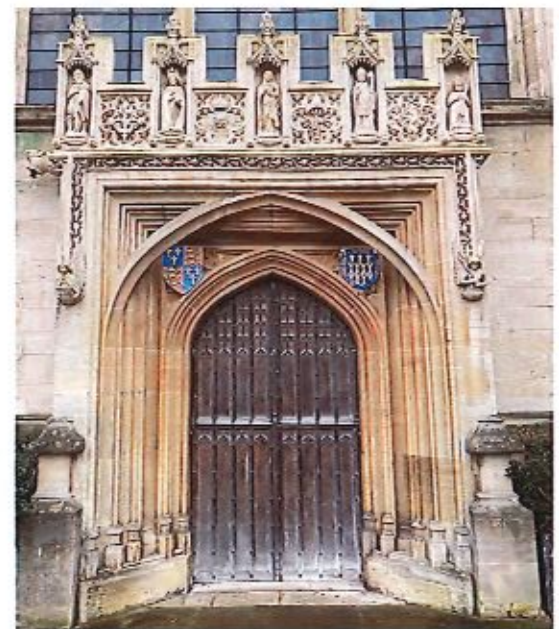
(L) Welsh Baptist Tabernacle in Cardiff



(R) Old Divinity School building at Oxford



(L) New College Chapel



(R) Door to Magdalen College Chapel

Irish dancing entertainment during coffee fellowship on March 17, 2024  
with our very own Shannon Brown in the mix!



May Festival Youth Chorus at FBC on March 3, 2024



## *Congratulations!*

Scarlett Kennedy Downey Kalbfleisch was born on March 17, 2024 weighing 7lbs and 20 inches long. She is the daughter of Brittany and Caleb Downey Kalbfleisch, and the little sister of Elias Downey Kalbfleisch. Congratulations to the family, especially the beaming grandparents Mike & Dawn Kalbfleisch! ☺





**Trustee Kimberly Bogan** prepping walls for painting in the 2nd floor ladies room.

*"Of Course I'm a Good Girl !!"*



Molly the chihuahua does the best Easter Bunny impersonation! ☺  
(Thank you to Pastor Jason for sharing this adorable photo!)





hosted by  
Christ Episcopal Church, Dayton & First Baptist Church, Dayton




# SOLAR ECLIPSE BLOCK PARTY



Monday, April 8 1 - 4 pm

in First Baptist Church parking lot



111 W Monument Ave,

Dayton, OH 45402



free eclipse glasses, refreshments  
& crafts while supplies last

