



### **The Baptistry Mosaic**

The sanctuary includes a tiled baptistry in the north-west corner. This is a visual symbol of our belief in the importance of a Christian's new birth, as expressed through the act of baptism. The dove on the floor of the baptistry recalls not only the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ at his baptism, but also the promise of the Spirit given to his followers. The dove was presented by Margaret Francis, a member of New Road who died in 1990.

### **The Anniversary Banners**

The walls of the sanctuary contain four banners representing various dimensions of the life of the church: Baptism, Worship, Fellowship, and Mission. These were unveiled in January 2003 as part of the celebrations of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of New Road.

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# **The Sanctuary Art**

**of**

# **New Road Baptist Church, Oxford**



## The Vestibule Glass Doors

The etched glass doors which stand at the vestibule entrance to the sanctuary were installed in 1982 as part of an extended church re-development programme. The idea of the doors came from Reverend Robert Brown, minister of the church from 1969-84. The design is built around the words of Psalm 24:1 - 'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those that dwell therein' (NEB). The text encircles a rocky sub-stratum which stands above the fiery earth core, symbolizing that the Word of God is at the foundation of the world. Surrounding the text are images depicting the complexities of the modern world: the diverse peoples which make up the nations of the earth, birds, trees, plants and animals, buildings, aeroplanes, tractors, broadcasting aerials and telecommunications satellites. In the upper right we see an image of the sun and in the lower left the moon, suggesting God's care over the world both day and night. The art work was designed by Meinrad Craighead and David Peace.



## The Sanctuary Cross

The cross is centrally located within the sanctuary, emphasizing the life of the church as based upon Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice for the world. At the centre of the cross is a crown of thorns, a complementary image of Christ's passion. The cross is made out of African woods and was produced by Heather Harms in 1982 as part of the church re-development programme. She also designed the pulpit fall which shows a dove carrying an olive branch, a traditional symbol of peace. The image comes from the story of Noah and the Ark (Genesis 8:11) and represents God's promise of a new covenant with his people. The embroidery of the pulpit fall was done by Jean Hall and Patricia Pearce.