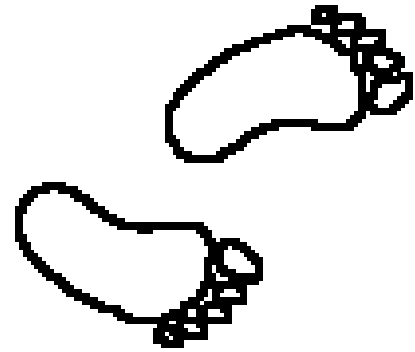


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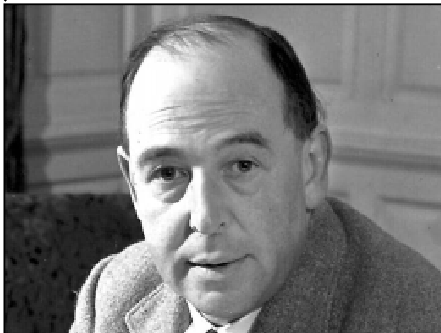
The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Canberra
Aboriginal Church



CCF & CAC services resumption
are currently uncertain.



C. S. Lewis (1898 - 1963)

Well known in Christian circles, Clive Staples Lewis is also widely known by the general public principally from his Chronicles of Narnia books which have been translated into 47 languages and been adapted for plays, radio, television and the big screen. To family and friends he was known as Jack.

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Lewis's mother died when he was 9. His early education came from a mixture of private tutors and periods at various schools. In his early teen years, he abandoned the Church of Ireland Christian faith in which he had been brought up to become an atheist.

Entering Oxford University in 1917, he was soon drafted for army training and on his 19th birthday arrived at the Somme Valley, France and entered the trenches to fight in the First World War. Wounded 4 1/2 months later,

Lewis recovered back in England and was demobilised at the end of 1918. He successfully returned to his studies and in 1925 "was elected a Fellow and Tutor in English Literature at Magdalen College" Oxford University.

Lewis and an army cadet friend, Paddy Moore, "made a mutual pact that if either died during the war, the survivor would take care of both of their families. Paddy was killed in action in 1918 and Lewis kept his promise." He became very close to Moore's mother, often referring to her as his mother, and caring for her until her death.

Lewis "eventually returned to Christianity, having been influenced by arguments with his Oxford colleague and Christian friend J. R. R. Tolkien" and others. He joined the Church of England.

It was a struggle for him. "*You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen [College, Oxford], night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.*"

Not accepted back into the army for the Second World War, Lewis served in the Home Guard and spoke on religious programmes broadcast on the radio. Those broadcasts were later published in the book "Mere Christianity".

"In 1954, Lewis accepted the newly founded chair of Mediaeval and Renaissance Literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he finished his career."

In the mid-1950s Lewis formed an intellectual bond with the American former communist, former atheist, christian convert, female writer Joy Davidman Gresham. They married and their relationship developed. She was diagnosed with bone cancer and died four years later.

"Lewis's book *A Grief Observed* describes his experience of bereavement in such a raw and personal fashion that he originally released it under the pseudonym N. W. Clerk to keep readers from associating the book with him. Ironically, many friends recommended the book to Lewis as a method for dealing with his own grief."

C. S. Lewis died on the same day US President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

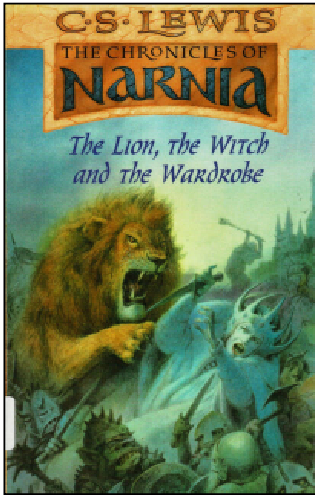
Lewis left behind a considerable body of work.

"In addition to his scholarly work [on middle ages literature], Lewis wrote several popular novels, including the science fiction *Space Trilogy* for adults and the *Narnia* fantasies for children. Most deal implicitly with Christian themes such as sin, humanity's fall from grace, and redemption."

His "*The Screwtape Letters*, consists of letters of advice from senior demon Screwtape to his nephew Wormwood on the best ways to tempt a particular human and secure his damnation."

"Lewis is ... regarded by many as one of the most influential Christian apologists of his time, in addition to his career as an English professor and an author of fiction."





He "was very interested in presenting an argument from reason ... for the existence of God. *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain*, and *Miracles* were all concerned, to one degree or another, with refuting popular objections to Christianity".

A number of his statements are often quoted when discussing Christianity and faith.

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (from *Mere Christianity*).

"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else." (from an address by Lewis and included on the floor stone inscription recognising him at Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey.)

ID

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._S._Lewis

<https://www.cslewis.com/us/about-cs-lewis/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lion,_the_Witch_and_the_Wardrobe

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- for leaders, doctors and ministers.
- for revival - that people will seek the Lord.
- for the elderly, those in lockdown in their homes (particularly in Melbourne) and for each other.

and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church virtual gatherings using ZOOM for around 40 minutes each Sunday from 5pm. - A time of fellowship, worship and delving into God's Word.

The Canberra Aboriginal Church service resumption date is uncertain but will not be until the weather warms and the coronavirus risk, particularly for older and more vulnerable people, is more predictable and the possibility of local outbreaks lessened.



CCF Service Resumption

CCF normal services will NOT resume on 6 September as previously planned
HOWEVER

Joyce is looking at resuming Bible Study to meet at her place. Contact her for further information - 62412085

Mark and Katherine will host a gathering for worship in some form at their place in Campbell starting Sunday, 6 September. Please contact Mark for details - 0413599238

1. We will follow the ACT Gatherings at Home Plan (i.e. this will not be a public event and won't be advertised).
 - a. Stay home if you are feeling unwell.
 - b. Practise good hygiene (we will have hand sanitiser available at the door).
 - c. Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres: The rooms will be set up to support this. The living room can easily accommodate a dozen people complying with this, and there are two adjacent rooms which can act as overflow as needed.
 - d. No shaking hands, hugging or kissing.
2. The format will be flexible and respond to who comes. We will select from things such as:
 - a. Short statements of welcome, encouragement and explanation (liturgy)
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Bible Readings
 - d. Singing
 - e. Kid's spot
 - f. Short talk (5-10 min)
 - g. Bible Study discussion (i.e. we will do either a short talk or a Bible Study):

Chaplains

Please pray that as coronavirus restrictions are gradually lifted, the chaplains we particularly support will be able to follow the new paths You have set before them. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



Devotional material



Prayer



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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone