The World of C.S. Lewis

NORTHERN IRELAND, THE BORDERS OF WALES AND ENGLAND

JULY 19, 2013 THROUGH AUGUST 1, 2013

with

DR. LESLIE FAIRFIELD
AND SPECIAL GUIDE MRS. HARRIET GRAHAM
Fri, July 19 UNITED STATES TO BELFAST
We will depart our hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Sat, July 20 BELFAST ARRIVAL & PORTRUSH
Lush, green, secret places with the sound of water alternately softly swirling, then falling in dramatic torrents, the nine Glens delight the senses. Entwined with their rich beauties are equally diverse and magical stories, combining the colorful history, myth and the traditions of the communities within the glens.

This morning after arriving in Belfast we will meet our driver/guide in the arrivals hall and proceed by coach from Belfast Airport north through Ballymena, the Antrim Mountains and the Glens of Antrim, experiencing one of Ireland’s most scenic coastal roads. I’ll be talking about the early shaping of Lewis’s imagination – and in particular his affinity for “northernness” – in his childhood holidays here on the Antrim coast. We will visit Dunluce Castle (maybe an early model for Cair Paravel in the Narnia tales) and one of the strands at Portrush where Lewis spent summers as a child.

Dinner and overnight: BUSHTOWN HOTEL, COLERAINE. (D)

Sun, July 21 GIANT’S CAUSEWAY & DERRY
Before we leave Lewis’s childhood scenery in Antrim, we will stop to visit the Giant’s Causeway. This impressive area of hexagonal columns was formed over 60 million years ago by cooling lava and has given rise to many legends. We continue along the coast to Derry and enjoy a walking tour of the principal sights. See the 17th century city walls, which are some of the best-preserved in Europe, and the Diamond—the main central square. Also pass the 17th century St. Columb’s Cathedral, the Tower Museum with local history displays and the Guildhall, where the history of Derry is depicted in stained-glass windows. Then we drive westward into the County Donegal, where Lewis spent many holidays as an adult. The theme is still “northernness” and the wild scenery of the County Donegal illustrates this theme. Drive to Donegal and check into your hotel. Dinner and overnight: STATION HOUSE HOTEL, LETTERKENNY (B,D)

Mon, July 22 GLENCOLUMCILLE & SLIEVE LEAGUE CLIFFS
Today we travel by coach westward from Donegal town through the villages of Inver and Killybegs, where Lewis spent holidays as
Tuesday, July 23
DRUMCLIFFE, NAVAN FORT AND NEWCASTLE
We will depart Donegal this morning and drive along the scenic shores of Donegal Bay. We continue on into Sligo and at Drumcliffe Visitor Centre to see the grave of one of Ireland’s most influential poets, W.B. Yeats, and a display about his life and work. I’ll be talking about Yeats and his influence on Lewis. Afterwards, we will drive east to visit Navan Fort - the Prehistoric capital of Ulster. One of Ireland’s most important archaeological sites, the legendary Emain Macha [Navan Fort] site is steeped in legend and folklore as the ancient seat of the Kings and Queens of Ulster and provides many interesting discoveries for the modern archaeologist. We will continue on to Newcastle and check into your hotel. The hotel is a short distance from the winding beach in the heart of the seaside town Newcastle, which is framed by the Mourne Mountains sweeping down to the sea. We will have a coach drive across country to Carlingford Lough and the Mountains of Mourne. This landscape deeply influenced Lewis’s imagination for the more pastoral parts of Narnia, as contrasted with the wildness of Donegal. Dinner and overnight: CULLODEN HOTEL, BELFAST.

Wednesday, July 24
BELFAST, BIRMINGHAM AND MALVERN
This morning we depart by coach to Belfast Airport and our flight to Birmingham. We will arrive early afternoon in Birmingham and continue to Malvern College with a stop at Tewkesbury Abbey. Although the Abbey was founded in 1087 by nobleman Robert FitzHamon, building of the present Abbey did not start until 1102. Built to house Benedictine monks, the Norman Abbey was near completion
when consecrated in 1121. Although a victim of the Reformation, the people of the town bought the abbey from Henry VIII to save it from further damage. There are elaborate chapels, medieval tombs and relics, and fine stained glass and roof bosses. Tewkesbury Abbey symbolizes the richness of medieval English Christianity that shaped Lewis’s imagination. From Tewkesbury, we will travel to Malvern, our home for the next two nights. Dinner and overnight is at The Abbey Hotel. (B, D) The ABBEY HOTEL - MALVERN.

Thursday July 25 - GREAT MALVERN, BRITISH CAMP AND THE GOLDEN VALLEY
Today, we will travel southwest from Great Malvern. We will have an opportunity to walk up to British Camp where Lewis and his friend George Sayer, frequently walked, and where Sayer and J.R. Tolkien also strolled. The British Camp is an Iron Age hill fort located at the top of Herefordshire Beacon in the Malvern Hills. The fort is thought to have been first constructed in the 2nd century BC. The following is an extract from the cover notes (written by George Sayer) of a recording by Tolkien. “He and I tramped the Malvern Hills which he had often seen during his boyhood in Birmingham or from his brother’s house on the other side of the Severn River Valley. He lived the book as we walked, for instance, sometimes comparing parts of the hills with the White Mountains of Gondor.”

We continue through Ledbury and the scenic Wye Valley to Kilpeck parish church and Abbey Dore and the Golden Valley. (where the movie “Shadowlands” imaginatively located a holiday that Lewis and his wife Joy spent shortly before her death). This evening, we will have a free evening to dine in one of Malvern’s wonderful restaurants and enjoy “Off London” theater productions. (B) THE ABBEY HOTEL MALVERN.

Friday, July 26 OXFORD AND THE COTWOLDS
This morning we will travel by coach through the picturesque Cotswolds to Oxford. Oxford has long represented the English academic establishment and its intellectual elite— a haven of tradition and scholarly endeavor. Oxford’s famous “Dreaming Spires” refer to the medieval churches and colleges that dominate the bustling modern town in all its Gothic splendor. Picturesque architecture and a vibrant modern life (driven by students, light industry, and technology) set in the rolling countryside of Oxfordshire make this a great destination.
Saturday July 27, THE THAMES, LECHLADE, FAIRFORD AND CIRENCESTER ABBEY
This morning we will enjoy a private boat tour on the Thames River from Oxford to the Rose Revived Pub near Lechlade, where we will enjoy lunch. Then we continue to Fairford parish church, which Lewis considered a jewel of medieval English parish architecture. Fairford Church boasts the most complete set of medieval glass remaining in Britain, along with a fine set of misericords. Time permitting, we will visit Cirencenster Abbey. We return to Oxford for a free evening with dinner on our own. (B,L) THE RANDOLPH HOTEL

We will enjoy a lunch at the Eagle and Child pub where Lewis and the Inklings used to meet, then tour Magdalen College and visit the church of St. Mary the Virgin where Lewis preached. THE RANDOLPH HOTEL AT OXFORD (B,L, D)

Sunday, July 28
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL AND THE KILNS
Options for Sunday worship in the morning are Christ Church Cathedral, or St. Aldate’s Parish Church. In the afternoon, we will visit the Divinity Schools where Lewis lectured, and The Kilns where Lewis lived, as well as Headington parish church where Lewis and Joy are buried. Overnight in Oxford. (B) THE RANDOLPH HOTEL

Monday, July 29
AVEBURY AND WELLS
Today, we will travel from Oxford southwest to Avebury, which Lewis thought a more impressive 3rd millennium BC site than Stonehenge. We will tour Avebury and then continue on to Wells. Here, we will tour the city and attend evensong at the magnificent Wells Cathedral (Lewis’s favorite). Dinner and overnight is at The SWAN HOTEL in Wells. (B,D)

Tuesday, July 30
SALISBURY AND LONDON
Today we go to Salisbury and a visit to the Cathedral there (too good to miss). After our
Wednesday, July 31 CAMBRIDGE
Lewis served as a professor at the University of Cambridge from 1954 until the end of his career. Winding streets and historic university buildings are what the hallowed the English city of Cambridge is all about. Today we will go to Cambridge and immerse our selves in Lewis’s world of Cambridge. We will explore Magdalene College and visit King’s College Chapel. We return by coach to London for dinner and overnight. (B,D) THE REMBRANDT HOTEL

Thursday, August 1 LONDON
We will transfer this morning to Heathrow airport. Extensions are available for those Who wish to have a longer stay in London.

“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.”
Quote by C. S. Lewis.

The Rev. Dr. Leslie P. Fairfield
Professor Les Fairfield was educated at Princeton and Harvard, and for thirty years (1976-2006) was professor of Church History at Trinity. He is the author of John Bale: Mythmaker for the English Reformation. He taught courses at Trinity ranging from Patristics to Postmodernism. Les retired from full-time teaching in 2006. He continues to lead study tours and to teach part-time at Trinity.
AIR TRANSPORTATION
The price of the tour is land only. Connoisseurs Tours Travelers come from many different parts of the country. Therefore we have found that most travelers prefer to have flexibility in their air transportation. We will provide a suggested air schedule that includes the group’s international flights coordinated with flights from your home city to suit your particular preference. After you have placed a deposit on this tour we will contact you regarding your air schedule.

PRICE OF TOUR
July 19 – July 24, 2013 Northern Ireland: $995.00 per person double occupancy
July 24 – August 01, 2013 The Welsh Borders and England: $3295.00 per person double occupancy
July 19-August 01, 2013 Full Study Tour: $4290.00 per person double occupancy
Single accommodations for Northern Ireland: $295.00
Single accommodations for Welsh Borders and England: $895.00
Included in the price of the full tour is the flight from Belfast City to Birmingham.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT
DEPOSITS SHOULD BE SENT TO CONNOISSEURS TOURS IN THE AMOUNT OF $400.00 PER PASSENGER TO RESERVE A PLACE ON THE TOUR
The balance of the payment is due April 20, 2013.
Checks should be made to CONNOISSEURS TOURS. Payment can be made via personal checks or any major credit card.

CANCELLATIONS
A $200.00 per person cancellation fee is charged for any cancellations after the deposit has been paid. All deposits are non-refundable 180 days prior to departure, 91 days to 60 days up to the departure date 50% of the of tour price is non-refundable, 59 days up to the date of departure and later 100% of the tour price is non-refundable. Connoisseurs Tours prepay all hotels, cruise lines, transportation, meals, guides, etc. in advance. Connoisseurs Tours strongly advises passengers to purchase Trip Cancellation interruption insurance, which is available through Connoisseurs Tours.

RESPONSIBILITY
Responsibility of the operators, CONNOISSEURS TOURS is limited. They act only as agents for the passengers in regard to travel whether by railroad, motor coach, private car, boat, aircraft or any other conveyances, and assume no obligation for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or through the acts of default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passengers or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Connoisseurs Tours can accept no responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to delay or changes in schedule or other causes. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of any tour or to change or withdraw the tour as circumstances demand. All rates are based on tariffs in effect at the time the tour was planned and are subject to change in the event of adjustment therein. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk and baggage insurance is recommended. Final payment by the passenger to Connoisseurs Tours shall be deemed to be consent to the above. All carriers, steamship lines, and other transportation companies whose services are featured in these tours, are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use by the companies when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage. CONNOISSEURS TOURS reserves the right to substitute hotels of equal or superior quality.

INSURANCE
Insurance is strongly recommended. Travel Insurance is very comprehensive and includes trip protection, health and cancellation insurance.
Cancel for a approved medical reason: $299.00 per person - Cancel for a medical reason and receive a 100% refund. Additional insurance to include the airfare is available through Connoisseurs Tours and must be added within 14 days of purchasing your airline tickets.

VALIDITY
September 2012 through March 2014
RESERVATION FORM
The World of C.S. Lewis
July 19 through August 1, 2013

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: ____
Email: ________________________________
Telephone:______________________________

Rooming with: _______________________

Please reserve _____ place(s) for this tour.

A deposit in the amount of $400.00 per person (plus optional insurance) is required for a reservation.

OPTIONAL INSURANCE:

- Policy – $299.00 per person
  - Cancel for an approved medical reason and receive a 100% refund.

Enclosed is a deposit of ______________ for _______ people.

- Check  Credit Card:  ___Visa  ___Mastercard  ___Amex  ___Discover

Card #: ________________________________________________________
Exp Date: _________ / _________           Security Code: ______________
Signature: _______________________________________________________  
Date: _____ / _________ / 2012

- I have read and understand the Terms and Conditions of this tour

Please mail your reservation form and deposit to:
CONNOISSEURS TOURS
One Tiffany Place
Savannah, GA.  31406
(912) 351-9525  •  1-800-856-1045
www.ConnoisseursTours.com

CONNOISSEURS TOURS