

CS Lewis remembered



Professor Alister McGrath, who has just published a new biography of CS Lewis, was the speaker at a worship celebration in St Mark's Church, Dundela, Belfast.

The Lion on the Hill: A Celebration with Professor Alister McGrath was organised in partnership with The Hub @ Queen's and The Good Bookshop, Belfast.

The event is one of a series organised around the 50th anniversary of CS Lewis' death.

The Parish of St Mark's Dundela, along with others across Belfast and Northern Ireland are coming together to mark the life of our famous son and to celebrate his contribution to the world of faith.

Narnia Experience, St Mark's Dundela

The Heyn Hall of St Mark's Dundela, becomes the magical land of Narnia for a day. Journey with Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy to the Stone Table and meet Mr Tumnus, Aslan and even The White Witch!



Saturday 16 November from 10 00 am – 4.00 pm in the Heyn Hall. Guided groups at 10.30 am, 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm.

Narnia Schools' Experience

Local Primary School children will be invited into the magical land of Narnia, where it is always winter but never Christmas.

Journey with Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy to the Stone Table and meet Aslan himself! Monday 11–Friday 15 November

The 'most reluctant convert' CS Lewis

One of the most important books on religion to have been published recently is Professor Alister McGrath's new biography of CS Lewis, the Northern Ireland-born writer who has blazed such a trail for Christianity, Alf McCreary writes in The Belfast Telegraph

It is a fitting time to publish the book titled CS Lewis — A Life with the apt sub-title Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet. In November this year, a memorial to Lewis will be unveiled in the Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey, even though he was better known as a Christian apologist and

the author of the Narnia Chronicles, rather than as poet or novelist.

Nevertheless, Lewis fully deserves his place in Poet's Corner with all the great names of literature. He remains one of the most respected and best-selling authors in the English language today.



***Jonathan Barry CS Lewis exhibition
exhibition at Belfast's Linen Hall
Library: Aslan's Return***

The unveiling of the memorial stone in the Abbey on November 22 this year will mark the 50th anniversary of Lewis' death. He was born at Belmont in [Belfast](#) on November 29, 1898, and there is a good exhibition of his life and work in Belmont Towers, which is also a cafe/restaurant in a former school near his birthplace. Lewis remains one of the best-known figures in the history of [Ulster](#) literature, but over the years many myths have grown about him, particularly the erroneous image of him as a 'saintly' figure.

He was a good man, but he had many human dimensions. In his early days he was an intellectual snob. He never really got on with his father, he lived for a long time with an older woman during a period when this was not common, he was a long-time atheist, and when he did embrace Christianity, described himself as the most reluctant convert in all of England.

Lewis went through many dark periods, particularly after the death of his wife Joy Davidman, and he told his official biographer Walter Hooper that he churchnewsireland@gmail.com

expected to be forgotten five years after his death.

Apart from a gap in the early years after his death, however, the Lewis bandwagon gathered momentum, chiefly among American evangelicals.

With the constant reprinting of his books, and intense academic debate about him, as well as his ability to communicate in print with ordinary people, the name of CS Lewis remained prominent.

More recently the huge success of the movie versions of the Narnia Chronicles, and particularly The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe, have made him immensely popular.

Given Lewis' rise to such a new prominence, Alister McGrath's new biography is all the more timely. McGrath, himself an Ulsterman, is currently Professor of Theology, Ministry and Education at King's College, London, and head of its Centre For Theology, Religion And Culture, as well as senior research

CNI - Celebrating CS Lewis

fellow at Harris Manchester College in Oxford.

He has studied all of Lewis' voluminous correspondence and archival materials. This has helped him to produce a definitive study of one of the most influential Christian writers of the last century and more.

I have read several biographies of Lewis, but this study by McGrath is one of the best yet. Like Lewis' own work, it is deceptively simple in its writing style but also profound and easily accessible to the non-academic reader.

If you are ever going to read only one book about Lewis, this is the one to take with you to bed or on holiday, and it is my guess that having read it you will want to discover much more about this remarkable son of Belfast.

CS Lewis exhibition: Magic of Narnia is illustrated at Belfast's Linen Hall Library

The beauty of [Belfast's](#) Linen Hall Library will provide the perfect backdrop for an exhibition by one of the world's top children's book illustrators, Michelle Smyth writes in *The Belfast Telegraph*.

As part of the library's CS Lewis exhibition which runs from Thursday until December 24, acclaimed Irish artist and illustrator Jonathan Barry will showcase a collection of his most popular Narnia images, which include oil paintings from the books of the series, *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe*, *Prince Caspian*, *The Magician's Nephew* and *The Voyage Of The Dawn Treader*.

Dublin-based Barry has illustrated more than 65 titles and is the only Irish illustrator to have sold at Sotheby's in London.



Jonathan Barry CS Lewis exhibition exhibition at Belfast's Linen Hall Library: The Dawn Treader Comes Alive

Barry, who is most famous for his Wordsworth Classic front covers, of which he has produced 23, said the 225-year-old library is the perfect setting for the exhibition.

"I am an artist who paints in an Edwardian style and the Linen Hall Library, being a building with a very strong Edwardian history, is the perfect backdrop for my Narnia paintings.

"I adore CS Lewis. I cannot think of a better venue to launch my [Northern Ireland](#) exhibition," he said.

The free exhibition will form part of the CS Lewis Festival which takes place from November 18-23 and marks the 50th anniversary of the author's death. All of the paintings will be available to purchase as prints – a world exclusive to the Linen Hall Library.

City Festival remembers Narnia author

Final preparations are being made for a week-long festival to celebrate Belfast writer CS Lewis.

Irish news report - Organisers have promised a colourful week of songs, tours, recitals, talks, drama and performances for all the family.

This is the first year of the CS Lewis Festival and it is being held at venues across the city from November 18 to 23 to mark the 50th anniversary of the writer's death.

The acclaimed author wrote classics such as *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, which breathed life into characters such as Aslan the lion.

CS Lewis was brought up in east Belfast and some of its landmarks from his childhood made their way into his novels, including a lamp in the grounds of Campbell College which, it is said, may have inspired the lamp in Narnia where Lucy first met Mr Tumnus.

A CS Lewis trail will be officially opened during the festival, allowing people to stroll past the landmarks which were significant to Lewis and his work.

Other highlights include an enchanted tour around the grounds of Lewis' alma mater, Campbell College, which will also host a reading of William Nicholson's play *Shadowlands* and a screening of the Lewis documentary *Through Joy and Beyond*.

The exhibition *Through the Wardrobe* by artist Jonathan Barry will take place at the Linen Hall Library and will feature personal correspondence from Lewis and items from the library's own collection, which were donated by the CS Lewis Association of Ireland.

Festival organiser Wendy Langham said the author was someone people were familiar with but did not necessarily realise was from east Belfast.

"On the 50th anniversary of his death, the CS Lewis Festival seeks to discover and celebrate those connections and invite



Daniel Pickering, 4, with Aslan at the launch of the CS Lewis festival at Belmont Tower in east Belfast - News Letter

people to come on a journey with us across the east, and hopefully have a lot of fun in the process," Ms Langham said. Later this month Lewis will become the first Belfast writer to be placed in Westminster Abbey's Poets Corner and to mark the occasion Belfast's Poet Laureate Sinead Morrissey will host a reading by fellow city writers Glenn Patterson, Michael Longley, Ciaran Carson and Leontia Flynn in the Linen Hall Library.

CNI - Celebrating CS Lewis

Belfast Mayor Mairtin O Muilleoir said the festival would be "a great way to celebrate the life of one of Belfast's greatest sons". "CS Lewis is recognised as one of the most talented authors in the world and has brought our city international acclaim," he added.

The East Belfast Partnership is organizing the festival and encouraged people of all ages to get involved in a "magical week of exploration and adventure".

Poet and novelist Kevin Kiely will deliver a lecture as part of the CS Lewis Festival.

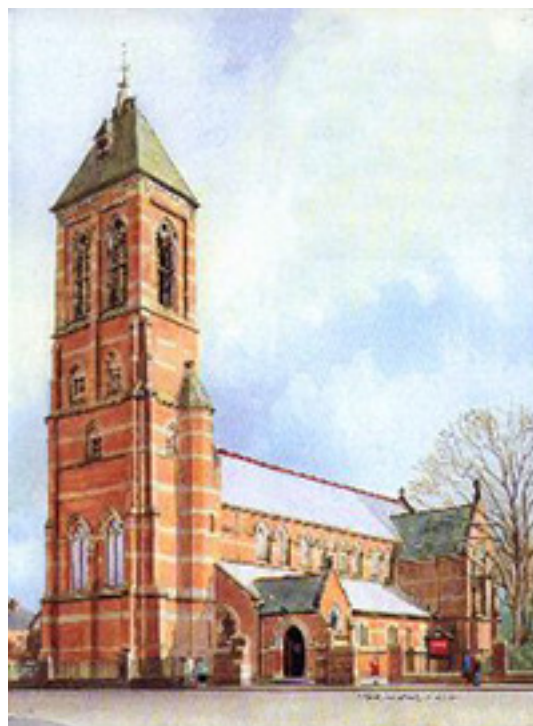
CS Lewis and St. Mark's

Clive Staples Lewis, the notable Christian writer, was baptized in the font at the west end of St Mark's church, Dundela, on January 29th 1899 by his grandfather, the Rev. Thomas Hamilton, Rector of St. Mark's.

From St Mark's parish web site - We celebrated the centenary of his baptism (Link to the Baptistry) at Morning Service on Sunday 31st January 1999. The Address was given by The Rt. Rev. D.A.R. Caird M.A., D.D., L.L.D., H.Dip.Ed.

C S Lewis was called, almost against his will, to serve God by writing and speaking about 'mere Christianity', in philosophical books and science fiction, in childrens' stories and on the radio. Many thousands have heard and are hearing his message, for his books still sell in great numbers all over the world.

C S Lewis and his brother, Warren, known as 'Warnie' presented a window to the church in 1935 in memory of their father and mother. Three Saints are shown: two Gospel writers, St Mark and St Luke, on either side of St James. We may wonder why St James, the son of Zebedee, is the central figure. Perhaps because his shrine



at Compostela in Spain was a mediaeval place of pilgrimage - the pilgrim's bag and staff and the pilgrim's badge, the scallop shell, shown in the window hint at this. But perhaps simply because Albert Lewis's second name was James. The Saint holds a silver chalice, similar to one which Albert and his family presented to the church in 1908 in memory of their father, Richard Lewis, engineer and shipbuilder, who lived nearby at Ty Isa, Parkgate Avenue, Belfast.

The Latin inscription below the window is translated:

To the greater glory of God and dedicated to the memory of Albert James Lewis, who died on the 25th September 1929, aged 67, and also of his wife, Flora Augusta Hamilton, who died on the 23rd August 1908, aged 47.

The two brothers, Warnie and Jack (as he had always been called, since the age of four years old) were very pleased with the window when they made a special journey to Belfast to see it completed. It was created by the Irish artist, Michael Healy (1873-1941), a member of the Tower of Glass, a well-known group of stained-glass window artists of the time.

The memorial window on the south side nearest the side chapel, is to the Rev Thomas Hamilton, first Rector of St Mark's (1826-1905). He was C S Lewis's grandfather and baptized him. Thomas Hamilton lived in what is now the old rectory situated on the south side of the church. His daughter, Flora, Lewis's mother, died when the boy Jack was only 9 years old and this grievous loss stayed with the grown man all his life.

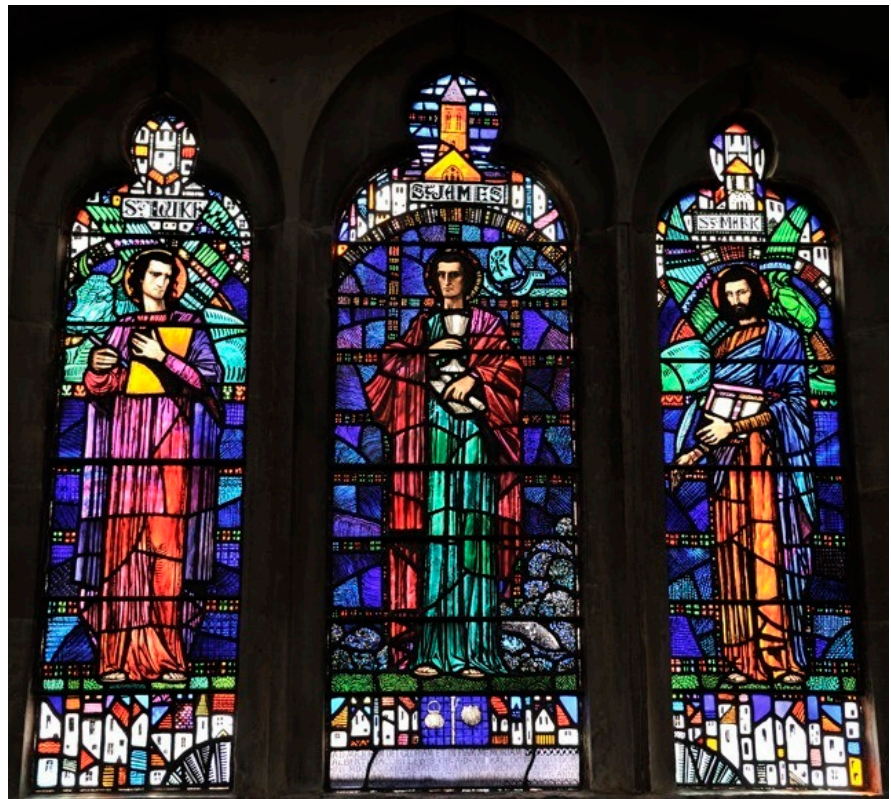
The lectern with its open Bible - the eagle is the symbol of St John the Gospel writer and represents the word of God being carried on eagle's wings across the world.

The Lectern was presented to the church by cousins of C S Lewis. The family sat in one of the front pews close to the pulpit, so the boy Jack would have been right under the eye of his grandfather, while he was preaching the sermon.

His wife, Mary Warren Heard, was a cousin and a dear friend of Flora Hamilton. So the Lewis boys were often invited to the Ewart's house, Glenmachan. C S Lewis in his autobiography, "Surprised by Joy" has much to say about the family. It was Cousin Mary, he records, who 'took upon herself the heroic work of civilising my brother and me'.

In this church and among these families young Jack Lewis grew up. After his mother's death, he was sent away to boarding school in England and his life was totally changed. Although as a young man he and his father grew apart, yet he never lost his fond memories of his childhood in Strandtown.

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C S Lewis window in St Mark's Church, Dundela

There is an excellent bibliography of CS Lewis' publications on St Marks web site - <http://dundela.down.anglican.org/>