An Inklings Week in Oxford
9-Day Conference & Tour
July 12 - 20, 2013 with Dr. Hal Poe
Sponsored by the Inklings Fellowship

C.S. Lewis,
J.R.R. Tolkien,
and Their Friends

The Inklings of Oxford

Text by
Harry Lee Poe

Photography by
James Ray Veneman
In the fiftieth anniversary year of the death of C.S. Lewis and the fortieth anniversary year of the death of J.R.R. Tolkien, join us in Oxford as we celebrate their contribution to faith and culture. Major Tolkien and Lewis scholars will join those who knew these men as we explore the great themes that Lewis and Tolkien explored which have continuing significance for a world in ruins. Morning sessions will be held at St. Aldate's Church, situated in its own grounds between Pembroke College, where Tolkien wrote The Hobbit and most of The Lord of the Rings, and Christ Church, where Dorothy L. Sayers’ father was a member when she was born.

DAY 1, Fri, July 12 DEPART USA
Departure from the USA for our flight to London. Dinner and breakfast are served on board. (meals aloft)

DAY 2, Sat, July 13 ARRIVE LONDON
Down through the years, from a small Roman settlement housed within stout fortifications, London has steadily grown to become one of the world’s greatest capital cities. Upon arrival this morning we are met at the airport by our guide and bus. We drive into the city and enjoy a panoramic tour, driving past well-known and recognizable places on our way to the Holiday Inn Regents Park Hotel. After checking in to the hotel, the remainder of the day is free to explore on our own. (B aloft)

DAY 3, Sun, July 14 LONDON/OXFORD
Today our bus and local guide pick us up at our hotel for a morning tour to see some of London’s famous sites. We view monuments and places such as Marble Arch, Mayfair, Piccadilly, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, and London’s Tower Bridge. This afternoon we drive to the world-famous university city of Oxford. We check in to The Barcelo Hotel with some time to freshen up and have dinner (on your own) before attending this evening’s Opening Service of Evening Prayer at St. Aldate’s Church. (B)

DAY 4, Mon, July 15 OXFORD/BATH/OXFORD
We spend the morning at St. Aldates Church, where today’s featured plenary speakers are Alister McGrath and Don King. The sessions conclude mid-day so that you have opportunity for lunch (on your own). This afternoon we drive to Bath, the best preserved Georgian city in Britain. We enjoy time at leisure to explore the old Roman baths - which from early times onwards have attracted people from all over the country to come and "take the waters", notably the 18th century English lords and nobles who made this city a byword for elegance and fashion. We also visit the Jane Austen Centre, which offers a permanent exhibition describing the effect that living in Bath had on her and her writing. Following our time here, we return to Oxford for overnight. (B)

DAY 5, Tue, July 16 OXFORD/SALISBURY/STONEHENGE/OXFORD
We spend the morning at St. Aldates Church, where today’s featured plenary speakers are Colin Duriez and Fong Choon Sam. The sessions conclude mid-day so that you have opportunity for lunch (on your own). This afternoon we drive to Salisbury to visit its magnificent cathedral, which was constructed over the course of 38 years from 1220 to 1258. The cathedral has the tallest spire in the United Kingdom, just over 400 feet, and also has the best surviving of the four original copies of Magna Carta. From Salisbury we drive to mysterious Stonehenge. Here we see a fascinating collection of ancient monoliths, placed there nearly 2,000 years before the birth of Christ, that were once used to calculate the eclipses and equinoxes. After a tour of this ancient site, we return to Oxford for overnight. (B)

DAY 6, Wed, July 17 OXFORD/CAMBRIDGE/STONEHENGE/OXFORD
We spend the morning at St. Aldates Church, where today’s featured plenary speakers are Walter Hooper and Dick Staub. The sessions conclude mid-day so that you have opportunity for lunch (on your own). This afternoon we drive to Cambridge, site of one of Europe’s oldest and best-known universities, and are joined by a local guide for a walking tour. Scarcely anywhere else in England is so much historical, architectural and artistic interest found concentrated in such a small area. Cambridge is home to tiny and charming Magdalene (pronounced ‘maudlin’) College, where Lewis lectured and wrote two of his famous books on medieval history. The University has 22 colleges, almost every one of which has some distinctive quality of its own. King’s College Chapel, built of white limestone, is Cambridge’s finest building, a masterpiece of late Gothic architecture. We see the Round Church, a church where Lewis reportedly worshiped during the late 1950s; and the Holy Trinity Church where Charles Simeon, often hailed as an ancestor of the evangelical movement in the Church of England, once served. Following our time in Cambridge we return to Oxford for overnight. (B)

DAY 7, Thu, July 18 OXFORD/COTSWOLDS/STRATFORD/OXFORD
We spend the morning at St. Aldates Church, where today’s featured plenary speakers are Harry Lee Poe and Gisela Kreglinger. The sessions conclude mid-day
so that you have opportunity for lunch (on your own). This afternoon we enjoy an excursion through the beautiful Cotswolds region, a great favorite of Lewis and Tolkien, who visited it as often as they could on their holidays. A scenic drive takes us through the rolling hills and mellow-colored stone villages of the Cotswolds such as Burford and Stow on the Wold. “Wold” refers to the tranquilizing rolling terrain and “cot” (cottage) applies to the dwellings that dot the undulating countryside, laced by streams and shaded by lovely trees in tidy gardens. We arrive to Stratford, where we have a guided tour of William Shakespeare’s birthplace and Anne Hathaway’s lovely thatched cottage, preserved just as it was in Elizabethan times. From here we return to Oxford for overnight. (B)

DAY 8, Fri, July 19  OXFORD
We spend the morning at St. Aldates Church, where today’s featured plenary speaker is Michael Ward. The sessions conclude mid-day so that you have opportunity for lunch (on your own). Then enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Oxford. You may choose to explore Christ Church College, one of the most beautiful and visited colleges in all England, which boasts some of the grandest and most stunning architecture in Oxford. Or perhaps visit Christ Church Cathedral, the smallest of England’s ancient cathedrals. All of the colleges have exquisite gardens, lovely and interesting chapels, stunning architecture, quiet walks and gardens, great traditions and history, and famous graduates. Oxford itself, “the city of dreaming spires”, is full of old and new shops, wonderful restaurants and pubs such as the “Eagle and Child”, a favorite of both Lewis and Tolkien. Dinner is on your own this evening, and then we participate in the closing worship service at St. Aldates Church, with overnight again at Barcelo Oxford Hotel. (B)

DAY 9, Sat, July 20  OXFORD/LONDON/USA
Following breakfast we transfer to the airport in London for our return flight to the USA. (B,meals aloft)

All sites listed in the itinerary will be seen but the sequence and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedule changes, hotel confirmation, etc. Hotels listed subject to confirmation.

TOUR CONDITIONS

PRICE OF BASIC 9-DAY TOUR: $3,399 from Newark.

NOT INCLUDED IN BASIC TOUR PRICE: Supplement for departure from city other than those listed above. Conference registration fee ($500 for students & non-students if registered prior to January 3, 2013; $600 for students & $725 for non-students after January 3, 2013). Most lunches; single room supplement ($720); excess baggage and forwarding of baggage; passports; personal items such as laundry or tips for personal favors; travel protection plan; any costs resulting from absence or deviation from the itinerary; and any items not shown herein as being included.

DEVIATION ITINERARY: Any adjustment in standardized air or land itinerary will carry a $100 fee (for each change) in addition to any additional expense required. This fee is applicable for research projected and/or accepted. To ensure efficient handling of these requests, Dehoney Travel, Inc. will require that a tour deposit be received before a deviation request can be processed.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: IATA Economy class, applicable on United, US Airways, Delta, or other IATA carrier. Supplement may apply for departure from cities other than those listed above. U.S. securities, customs and departure tax, fuel surcharge and foreign departure taxes of $681 are included in the tour rate and are subject to any change that may be imposed prior to departure.

TOUR DOCUMENTS: The name on your air ticket must exactly match your name as it appears on your passport. You must forward a copy of the photo/informational page of your passport within two weeks of enrollment on the tour. If applying for a new or renewed passport, send the copy as soon as you receive your new passport.

HOTELS: First-class/four-star. Price is based on double occupancy. While Dehoney Travel, Inc. will try to match roommates, we cannot guarantee that a roommate will be available. In this case the payment of a single supplement will be required. When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. Single supplement, $720.

MEALS AND SIGHTSEEING: Continental breakfast daily. Full sightseeing with luxury buses, government-licensed local guides, and entrance fees to places visited on sightseeing as described in the itinerary are included in the tour. Gratuities to local guides, bus drivers, etc. in the amount of $72 are included in the tour rate.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: Because of space limitations on buses and new airline regulations, we have included porterage for only one check-on bag (combination width, length and height not to exceed 62 inches and 50 pounds) in tour cost. You may also take one carry-on which will fit under your airline seat or in the overhead compartment.
PAYMENT: Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card (Discover, MasterCard or Visa). A deposit of $500 per person is required at least 90 days prior to departure in order to confirm tour membership. Within 90 days, space may be limited and/or a supplement in airfare may apply. Balance of tour price is due upon receipt of final invoice (approximately 10-12 weeks prior to departure).

DELAYS, CANCELLATION AND REFUND: Dehoney Travel, Inc. is not responsible for changes and delays in airline schedules and cannot reimburse passengers for expenses resulting from delays, re-issuance of air tickets, etc. In event of cancellation, there will be a fee of $100 for Dehoney Travel, Inc. to cover administrative costs. In addition, the following scale of charges may apply when notice of cancellation is given in writing after the booking is confirmed: up to 121 days prior to departure - $100; 120-61 days - $500; 60-46 days - 25% of total tour price; 45-31 days - 50% of total tour price; 30 days-day of departure/no show - 100% cancellation penalty. All cancellation notifications must be made in writing to Dehoney Travel, Inc. Please allow 4 weeks for cancellation refund processing.

After ticketing of international and domestic air, a cancellation penalty of 100% of air fare is in effect. On or after the date of departure there can be no refund for any service not used.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: As many U.S. health carriers do not provide benefits while outside the country and cancellation penalties can be substantial for many tours, Dehoney Travel, Inc. offers a Travel Protection Plan, TripCare, through Access America. The Option to Waive Pre-existing Condition Exclusion requires purchase of Travel Protection within 14 days of deposit. You may decline the Travel Protection Plan, but a signed disclaimer is required and all charges for cancellation or medical treatment/transport while traveling are your responsibility.

RESPONSIBILITY: Dehoney Travel, Inc. (DT), agrees to arrange for the tour described in this brochure, which brochure represents the entire agreement between the passenger and his agent, the Tour Host and DT. Except for the willful negligence of its direct employees, DT assumes no liability or responsibility for any injuries, inconveniences, illness or irregularity or incidental damages occasioned by circumstances beyond the control of DT or any person or reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, events such as strikes, revolts, wars, travel warnings, terrorist activities, natural disasters, closures of airports or hotels, or omission of any common or private carrier or the default, negligence, or omission of and by any third party providing services or facilities related to or included in this tour or any part thereof, or in arranging for the same, or the acts or omissions of the Tour Host.

No person, other than an authorized representative of Dehoney Travel, Inc. by a document in writing, is authorized to vary, add, or waive any term or condition in this brochure, including any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

*Subject to Governmental, IATA, ARC and airlines regulation requirements in effect at the date of and during the tour. Tour price based on group minimum 30 passengers, current air fares and cost of land arrangements as of October 8, 2012 ($1.62 = 1 GBP) and is subject to any changes that may be imposed prior to departure.