

Chronologically 1944

In this year William W. Lawrence's review of "Hamlet: the Prince or the Poem?" appears in *Modern Language Review*. B.A. Wright's review of *A Preface to Paradise Lost* appears in *Review of English Studies*.

- January 4 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- January 5 Wednesday. Jack writes to Eric Fenn.
- January 6 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- January 7 Friday. Jack writes to Delmar Banner.
- January 9 Sunday. Jack writes to Eric Fenn.
- January 10 Monday. Hilary Term begins.
- January 11 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- January 13 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- January 17 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "The Concept of Reason" with speaker W. A. Pickard-Cambridge.
- January 18 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- January 20 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- January 22 Saturday. Previously Jack booked lunch for this day for Eric Fenn in his rooms.
- January 24 Monday. The Socratic Club meets and hears C.E.M. Joad speak on "On Being Reviewed by Christians."
- January 25 Tuesday. The first woman is ordained to the Anglican priesthood, the Bishop of Hong Kong, Florence Tim-Oi Li. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- January 27 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- January 30 Sunday. Jack writes to Arthur, indicating that he has been praying daily for Arthur since he began praying.
- February 1 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- February 3 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- February 7 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "*Bulverism*, or The Foundation of 20th-Century Thought" with speaker C. S. Lewis.
- February 8 Tuesday. Eric Fenn writes to Jack about a scheduling problem. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- February 10 Thursday. Jack writes to Eric Fenn, agreeing to give three of the talks at 10:20 p.m. and record the rest of the series. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- February 11 Friday. Jack's article, "Is English Doomed?," is published in *The Spectator*.
- February 14 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "Materialism and Agnosticism" with speakers J. K. White and G. B. Preston.
- February 15 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- February 17 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- February 19 Saturday. Jack writes to Sister Penelope, having read the introduction to her book, *The Incarnation of the Word of God: Being the Treatise of St. Athanasius 'De Incarnatione Verbi Dei*. Jill Flewett has begun staying at the Kilns and will be here through most of August.
- February 21 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "Christianity and Psychoneurosis" with speaker John Layard.
- February 22 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack begins his fourth series of seven BBC talks this evening on the topic "Making and Begetting." Jack writes to Arthur.
- February 24 Thursday. *The Listener* publishes Jack's BBC talk from two days earlier. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- February 26 Saturday. Jack writes to J. S. A. Ensor.
- February 28 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "Can Science Provide Our Ethics?" with guest speaker David Whitteridge.
- February 29 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack continues his fourth series of seven BBC talks this evening with his second talk on "The Three-Personal God."
- March William R. Parker's review of Lewis's *A Preface to Paradise Lost* appears in *Modern Language Notes*.
- March 2 Thursday. *The Listener* publishes Jack's BBC talk from two days earlier. Jack writes to J. S. A. Ensor. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- March 3 Friday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "The Significance of Reinhold Niebuhr for Contemporary Thought" with guest speaker D. M. MacKinnon.
- March 4 Saturday. Jack writes to J. S. A. Ensor.
- March 7 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack continues his fourth series of seven BBC talks this evening with his third talk on "Good Infection."
- March 9 Thursday. *The Listener* publishes Jack's BBC talk from two days earlier. Jack writes to the editor of *The Listener* about the response of W. R. Childe to his printed BBC talks. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- March 13 Monday. Jack writes to J. S. A. Ensor.

March 14 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack continues his fourth series of seven BBC talks this evening with his fourth talk on “The Obstinate Toy Soldiers.”

March 16 Thursday. *The Listener* publishes Jack’s BBC talk from two days earlier. Jack writes to Dr. Thomas Riddle. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

March 20 Monday. Jack writes to Mrs. Percival Wiseman.

March 21 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack continues his fourth series of seven BBC talks this evening with his fifth talk on “Let’s Pretend.”

March 23 Thursday. *The Listener* publishes Jack’s BBC talk from two days earlier. Eric Fenn sends Lewis a report from the BBC’s “Listener Research people,” which shows audience response. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

March 25 Saturday. Jack writes to Eric Fenn, sending along an “apologia,” replying to listener criticism.

March 28 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack continues his fourth series of seven BBC talks this evening with his sixth talk on “Is Christianity Hard or Easy?”

March 29 Wednesday. Jack has lunch with Tolkien to get him started writing *LOTR* again.

March 30 Thursday. *The Listener* publishes Jack’s BBC talk from two days earlier. Jack writes to Dr. Friedrich Saxl, an art historian. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

March 31 Friday. Jack writes to J. S. A. Ensor.

April Elmer E. Stoll’s “Give the Devil his Due: A Reply to Mr Lewis” appears in *Review of English Studies*, 78, in response to Lewis’s *A Preface to Paradise Lost*.

April 1 Saturday. Hilary Term ends.

April 3 Monday. Tolkien starts writing *The Lord of the Rings* again.

April 4 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack continues his fourth series of seven BBC talks this evening with his seventh and last talk on “The New Man.” Jack writes to Eric Fenn. Jack is reading Dorothy Sayers’ *The Man Born to be King*.

April 6 Thursday. *The Listener* publishes Jack’s BBC talk from two days earlier. Jack writes to Frances Young, the widow of Prof. Karl Young, Yale Professor of English, who had died on Nov. 17, 1943. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

April 7 Good Friday. Jack writes to E. R. Eddison.

April 9 Easter Sunday.

April 11 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

April 12 Wednesday. Trinity Term begins.

April 13 Thursday. Tolkien calls Warren’s projected book the best entertainment of the evening for the Inklings in Jack’s rooms.

April 17 Monday. Jack receives a letter from E. R. Eddison.

April 18 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack arrives at the Hayes train station at Hayes, Middlesex, at 5:46 p.m. to give “Answers to Questions on Christianity.” Questions are put to him by Mr. H. W. Bowen in this “One Man Brains Trust.”

April 20 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

April 21 Friday. Jack writes to E. R. Eddison.

April 24 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic “Socrates” with guest speaker J. K. Spalding.

April 25 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

April 26 Wednesday. Jack gives the first Clark Lecture at Trinity College, Cambridge.

April 27 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

May Jack writes to the Society for the Prevention of Progress.

May 1 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic “‘Explaining’ the Universe” with speakers P. D. Medawar and Austin Farrer.

May 2 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

May 3 Wednesday. Jack gives the second Clark Lecture at Trinity College, Cambridge.

May 4 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

May 8 Monday. The Socratic Club meets and discusses “Free Will and Determinism” with speakers L. A. Mannheim and G. H. L. Andrew.

May 9 Tuesday. Jack writes to Mr. Offer. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

May 10 Wednesday. Jack gives the third Clark Lecture at Trinity College, Cambridge.

May 11 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

May 13 Saturday. Jack writes to Cecil Harwood about Harwood coming to Oxford.

May 15 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic “Philosophy Today” with speaker H. A. Hodges.

May 16 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

May 17 Wednesday. Jack gives the fourth and last Clark Lecture at Trinity College, Cambridge. Jack writes to Dr. Thomas Riddle about the No. 73 bus in *The Screwtape Letters*.

May 18 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

May 21 Sunday. Jack writes to Martin Moynihan, indicating that he has read an unpublished work of Moynihan’s entitled *Fives & Logic*.

- May 22 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic “Concerning the Question: Jesus, Prophet or Son of God?” with Stella Aldwinckle.
- May 23 Tuesday. Jack writes to Edith Gates. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- May 25 Thursday. Jack writes to Griffiths. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- May 28 Pentecost Sunday. Lewis preaches the sermon “Transposition” at Mansfield College at the invitation of its Principal Dr. Nathaniel Micklem.
- May 29 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic “Duty and Delight” with speakers P. J. Thompson and Barbara Falk.
- May 30 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- June 1 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- June 5 Monday. The Socratic Club meets over the topic “Is Institutional Christianity Necessary?” with C. S. Lewis as speaker.
- June 6 Tuesday. The D-Day landings of the Allies take place in Normandy, France. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- June 8 Thursday. Eddison joins Jack for dinner, the Inklings in Jack’s rooms, overnight, and breakfast the next morning.
- June 9 Friday. Jack has breakfast with Eddison. Jack writes to John Rowland.
- June 13 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- June 15 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- June 16 Friday. Warren celebrates his forty-ninth birthday.
- June 20 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- June 22 Thursday. Encaenia. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- June 27 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- June 29 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- July A piece of shrapnel is removed from Lewis’ chest.¹
- July 4 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- July 6 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- July 8 Saturday. Trinity Term ends.
- July 11 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- July 13 Thursday. Jack writes to C. N. Francis about what writing he has done on Freud. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- July 16 Sunday. Jack writes to Sarah Neylan.
- July 18 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- July 20 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- July 24 Monday. Jack writes to Helen Tyrrell.
- July 25 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- July 27 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- July 31 Monday. Jack writes to Barbara, thanking her for typing *The Great Divorce*. Jack sends the manuscript to the publisher.
- August 1 Tuesday. Jack writes to Violet Mary Toy, having read her article, “Defense of Imogen.” Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- August 3 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- August 8 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- August 10 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- August 15 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- August 17 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- August 22 Tuesday. Jack writes to Barfield. Jill Flewett is getting ready to leave the Kilns. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- August 24 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- August 29 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- August 31 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- September Jack’s essay, “Myth Became Fact,” appears in the September-October issue of *World Dominion*.
- September 5 Tuesday. Jack writes to Mrs. Flewett about Jill. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack rereads Sister Penelope’s *Windows on Jerusalem* in bed at night.
- September 6 Wednesday. Jack writes to Sister Penelope. Jack has recently had an operation to remove a piece of shell from his body that was in him since World War One. Mrs. Moore has had a slight stroke.
- September 7 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
- September 12 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
- September 14 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack’s rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

¹ *Collected Letters*, II, 603, n. 8.

September 15 Friday. Jack writes to G. D. Gillies.

September 19 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

September 21 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

September 25 Monday. Paul V. M. Benecke dies in the Acland in the early morning.

September 26 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

September 28 Thursday. Warren attends the funeral of Benecke at 2:30 p.m. in the Magdalen College chapel. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

October 1 Sunday. Michaelmas Term begins.

October 3 Tuesday. Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams meet Roy Campbell at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Lewis had written some poetry about him. Dr. R. S. Lee, Overseas Religious Broadcasting Organizer for the BBC, writes to Jack about another series of talks for Australia. Jack writes to Margaret Deneke.

October 5 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

October 6 Friday. Jack writes to Roy Lee at the BBC about the invitation.

October 7 Saturday. Dr. Lee writes back to Jack about Jack repeating some of his earlier talks.

October 9 Monday. *Beyond Personality: The Christian Idea of God* is published by Geoffrey Bles.

October 10 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

October 11 Wednesday. Dr. Lee writes to Jack again.

October 12 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

October 13 Friday. Jack writes to Dr. Lee, declining the invitation to do more talks.

October 16 Monday. Dr. Roy Lee writes to Jack.

October 17 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

October 19 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

October 21 Saturday. Jack writes to Sister Penelope.

October 23 Monday. Jack writes to Dr. Lee, declining the invitation to do BBC talks again. The Socratic Club meets and discusses the topic "The Grounds of Modern Agnosticism" with guest speaker H. H. Price.

October 24 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

October 26 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

October 29 Sunday. Jack writes to Charles Brady. Jack mentions having read in the past Robert Benson's *The Dawn of All*.

October 30 Monday. Presumably, Jack lunches with Margaret Deneke, an authority on Felix Mendelssohn. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "Is Belief in a Personal God Compatible with Modern Scientific Knowledge?" with speaker David Evans.

October 31 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

November 2 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

November 6 Monday. Jack reads a paper to the Oxford University Socratic Club entitled "Is Theology Poetry?"

November 7 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

November 9 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

November 13 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "Has Psychology Debunked Sin?" with speakers L. W. Grensted and Barbara Falk.

November 14 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

November 16 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

November 20 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "Is Christian Sex-Morality Out of Date?" with Gerald Vann as speaker.

November 21 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

November 23 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

November 27 Monday. The Socratic Club meets on the topic "Rational and Irrational" led by M. C. d'Arcy.

November 28 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

November 29 Wednesday. Jack celebrates his forty-sixth birthday.

November 30 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

December 2 Saturday. Jack's letter, entitled "Basic Fears," is published in *The Times Literary Supplement*.

December 3 Sunday. The Local Defense Volunteers are disbanded, leaving Jack with no more responsibility in this area.

December 4 Monday. The last Socratic Club of the term meets on the topic "Life and Matter" with speaker V. P. Whittaker.

December 5 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

December 6 Wednesday. Jack writes to Mr. Lyell.

December 7 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

December 9 Saturday. Jack writes to Bernard Acworth.

December 10 Sunday. Margaret Fuller writes an encouraging letter to Jack, to which he replies on Jan. 20, 1945.

December 11 Monday. Dr. Lee writes to Jack about another series of BBC radio talks. Jack writes to Arthur. Minto had a light stroke a few months ago. Maureen is staying at the Kilns right now, expecting her son Richard.

December 12 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.

December 14 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.

December 15 Friday. Jack writes to decline Dr. Lee's request.
December 17 Sunday. Michaelmas Term ends.
December 19 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning. Jack and Warren go to Reading on the 11:00 train to present Jack before a medical board at 2:45 p.m. The hope was for him to receive some sort of compensation for an operation last July that had been due to a war injury.
December 21 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.
December 22? Friday. Jack writes to Laurence Harwood.
December 26 Tuesday. Presumably, the Inklings meet at the Eagle and Child in the morning.
December 28 Thursday. Presumably, the Inklings meet in Jack's rooms at Magdalen in the evening.