

CTS Termcard Lent 2019

Birthdays, Holidays, and Festivities in Middle Earth

Week 1

19:15, Weds 22 January, TBD, Newnham

Seeing as how it is your gracious Steward's birthday, we will be discussing holidays in Middle Earth. From Bilbo's 111th birthday to Aragorn's coronation, what gatherings and festivals appear in Tolkien's work and how are they celebrated? No discussion is complete without bringing up the Party King of Mirkwood.

Tolkien and Children's Literature

Week 2

19:15, Weds 29 January, TBD, Newnham

What sort of audience did Tolkien imagine for *The Lord of the Rings*? How do many of Tolkien's works set in Middle Earth differ from self-professed literature for children like *The Father Christmas Letters*? At what age did you first encounter Middle Earth?

Tolkien and Kingship

Week 3

19:15, Weds 5 February, TBD, Newnham

What makes a good ruler in Middle Earth? How do kings and queens fail or succeed? Are the criteria for effective kingship different for Valar, elves, humans, and dwarves? How are kings preferable to stewards? Do Théoden and Aragorn demonstrate contrasting or complementary qualities of rulership? These and other kingly questions will be considered.

Tolkien and Oxbridge

Week 4

19:15, Weds 12 February, TBD, Newnham

Tolkien attended, taught at, and lived in The Other Place for most of his life. His enthusiasm for Oxford even extended to giving it its own fictional name (Taruithorn). What elements of Tolkien's writing reflect aspects of Cambridge and Oxford? How have Cambridge and Oxford responded to Tolkien in turn? Why are many of Tolkien's papers now housed by Marquette University in Wisconsin, USA instead of in the Bodleian?

Games Night

Week 5

19:15, Weds 19 February, TBD, Newnham

Unless we have to move it earlier to accommodate the Quiz. Because we are not breaking our winning streak against Oxford. Expect perennial favorites including Contact, Consequences, and Tinúviel Pursuit.

Storytelling and Poetry

Week 6

19:15, Weds 26 February, TBD, Newnham

The traditional evening dedicated to reading and singing bits of Tolkien's work. This is a chance for us all to relive some of our favourite parts of the Tolkien canon, and the surrounding fandom. Come to participate, or just to listen.

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Eagle Debate – Favorite Undead

Week 7

19:15, Weds 4 March, TBD, Newnham

As immortal and deathless as many of Tolkien's characters are, Tolkien's work is also replete with the undead, questionably alive, and resurrected. To name just a few, Nazgûl, barrow wights, and the denizens of the Paths of the Dead round out the more sinister side, while Gandalf and Beren and Lúthien also return from the Halls of Mandos. Pick your favourite and start debating!

Mathom Party!

Week 8

**19:15, Weds 11 March, TBD,
Newnham**

Mathom: any object deemed mostly useless, e.g. one partially unravelled glove or a candle that won't light.

We invite you to partake in an annual CTS tradition to honour the Hobbit-practice of mathom-giving. If you have found yourself in possession of a useless object, maybe a Christmas present from one of your grandparents, bring it along and exchange it for something else, likely to be equally as useless.

Varsity Quiz

TBD

The call to arms has been heard! Taruithorn are gathering their forces and this year, the contest will take place on Oxford. Either take part, or sit back and spectate a nail-biting contest of how much ridiculously niche knowledge the contestants can dig up from their memories.

AGM and Annual Dinner

TBD

It is time for the old committee to bow out gracefully, and shepherd in a new committee to continue our (questionable) good work. Prepare to watch the Keeper of the Red Book have a meltdown trying to keep up with minutes for the AGM, before we retire...somewhere ... for our Annual Dinner. More details will be coming later in term.