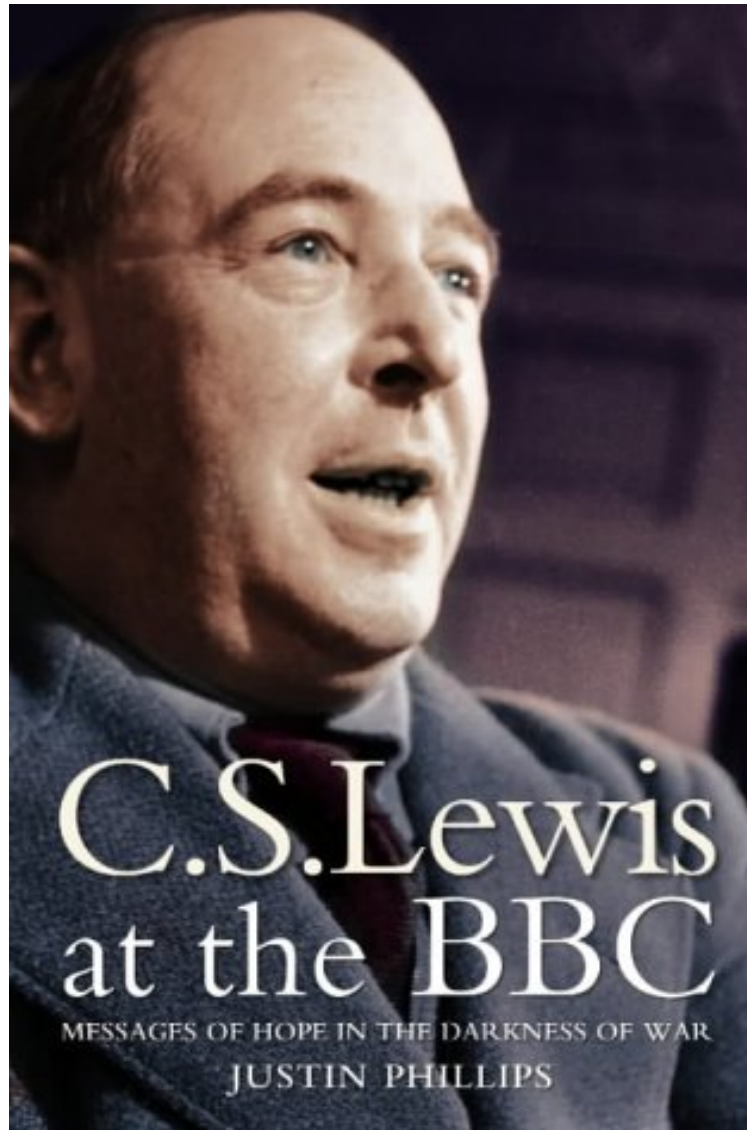


(Ebook free) C. S. Lewis at the BBC: Messages of Hope in the Darkness of War

## C. S. Lewis at the BBC: Messages of Hope in the Darkness of War

*Justin Phillips*

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**Justin Phillips : C. S. Lewis at the BBC: Messages of Hope in the Darkness of War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised C. S. Lewis at the BBC: Messages of Hope in the Darkness of War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating behind-the- scenes view the emergence of C.S LEWISBy BAUGHAN ROEMERThis thoughtful take on the significant radio experiences of C.S LEWIS is a must--read for those impacted by his profound writings on matters of faith. Indeed the wartime era at the BBC was arguably

the shaping experience that forged the C.S. LEWIS we have come to know and admire through his vast writings. As author Justin Phillips powerfully illustrates with great style and historic detail, LEWIS found his voice and persona via those inspiring WW II broadcasts. The impact of these BBC presentations directly led to his great literary success - and his enduring legacy as a masterful theologian. Thanks to Phillips' splendid efforts, we now have the back-story to enhance our perspective of LEWIS. Aside from shedding light on this neglected aspect of LEWIS' journey, Phillips also makes a rich contribution to the History of Broadcasting - and the BBC in particular, by taking us back to that earth-shaking time and place. We learn much about the inner workings, culture and personalities of the fabled BBC at a pivotal time in history. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Amazing book! 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A seminal contribution towards understanding a masterpiece By James Como As a lifelong and devoted student of Lewis -- and one who has read, re-read, written about, and lectured on Mere Christianity -- I was startled and deeply gratified to learn that the master conceived his touchstone idea, composed the masterpiece that conveys it, and perfected his popular, lean, direct apologetic style under what can only be regarded as the tutelage of the BBC. The late Justin Phillips (who died before completing his book: the manuscript was edited and brought to publication by his daughter Laura Treneer) first provides a genuinely riveting war-time context as only a lifelong BBC-man could. He then captures, with ample narrative skill and astonishingly adroit quotations from correspondence, the "Beeb's" persistence and scalpel-like judgment, as well as CSL's reservations, vexations, achievement, and finally his overwhelming success. Along the way the reader gets a concrete feel for Lewis's travel, work-habits, friendships and homelife which, though not entirely new, are utterly fresh (for example, the contributions of Jill Freud . . . ) And as a bonus we are treated to a chapter on Dorothy L. Sayers and the BBC: The corporation was sorely overmatched! From now on, Richard Baxter + CSL = Mere Christianity must become Baxter + Lewis X the BBC = Mere Christianity and a good deal of the master's pellucid style.

A behind-the-scenes look at religious radio broadcasting during World War II in which such revered figures as C.S. Lewis and Dorothy Sayers came into the public eye. This fascinating book explores the tensions behind the greatest era in BBC radio broadcasting the Home Service. Despite evacuation, air-raids and the closure of the fledgling TV service, the BBC rose magnificently to the challenge of informing, entertaining and inspiring a nation at war. The war years were to transform religious broadcasting beyond recognition. Under the persistent and innovative James Welch, the BBC began to invent new formats and take large risks in trying to communicate Christian truth to a generation whose faith was on the rack of war. Out of this came the broadcast talks of CS Lewis and the first ever dramatic portrayal of Christ in Dorothy L Sayers Man Born to be King. The response to C S Lewis first broadcast was so overwhelming that a second programme had to be arranged to answer listeners questions. Lewis' hugely popular BBC talks were published as Mere Christianity and have been a classic ever since, selling over 11 million copies worldwide. As a layman, Lewis initially claimed that he was not qualified to talk on Christian matters. For Lewis this was all part of the challenge of reaching a new audience. But his initial enthusiasm for broadcasting waned as it began to interfere with his work at Oxford, and he turned down many of the BBC's invitations to appear on the radio, including a chance to be on The Brains Trust, the Any Questions of its day. This is a chapter in Lewis' life which has received very little attention from biographers and commentators, who have focussed on his achievements as a writer and academic. Yet C S Lewis' work on the radio made him a household name.

About the Author Justin Phillips was the Head of BBC Heritage and worked at the BBC for many years. He was the author of Confidence (Hodder Stoughton) and The Word on the Box (Paternoster).