

Magazine

No. 194 October 2024

Dear Friends

A year or so ago I was introduced to the work of the English novelist Barbara Pym. Her themes may seem commonplace and everyday, but she had that great ability of looking at the life she lived, and the people she met, observe them acutely, and paint global themes in miniature.

"The small things of life were often so much bigger than the great things . . . the trivial pleasure like cooking, one's home, little

poems especially sad ones, solitary walks, funny things seen and overheard." If you want to get an idea of what Barbara Pym was like, apart from reading her novels, there's a lovely short film feature Dame Patricia Routledge called, 'Miss Pym's Day Out', telling the story of her day when she was nominated for the Booker Prize. It's on BBC iPlayer.

The business of paying attention to the little details of life is an important one. There's a tendency for them to be overlooked, or taken for granted, and it is only when they are not attended to that they are missed, and things go wrong. Life is so often dominated by the headlines and the big news stories, not unimportant in themselves. But they can seem beyond our reach, distanced from the everyday existences most of us lead. I rather

suspect it is when we have the big picture events and the little details of life held in balance that we gain a true perspective of what life is really about. We need both to help things make sense, and to apply lessons from one to the other, and back again.

Jesus talks about God's care for two sparrows not falling to the ground without God knowing; and knowing the number of hairs on our head (less of an issue for some than others!) And

the lost sheep and lost coin.
And the mustard seed.
Perhaps best of all the widow's mite, tiny in comparison to what others afford, but of being of greater significance because of what it represented from her resources.

The little details, in the bigger picture. God knows and values them all.

It can sometimes feel that we are very small cogs in very large wheels, and that what we say and think do not amount to much, or will never be missed, or simply do not matter. That's not the way God sees it. Do what you can, great or small, and know that your contribution when all is added up will make all the difference in the world.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in September and discussed the following:

Presbytery Reform – The Moderator reported that a meeting has been arranged with the Moderator, the Interim Moderator of Greenbank and the Session Clerks of the congregations.

Communications - Isobel Paterson, Convenor reported:-

Website - It was regrettable that our well laid plans to have the website replaced came to nothing but the arrival of Leigh Malaihollo in the Church Office and the co-operation between her and Dorothy Mushet means that we have a website that does the job of informing anyone interested as to what is going on in our congregation, and does it well.

Other Media - The Moderator and Paul Cackette ensure that material is added appropriately to Social Media. The 'I Love Morningside' Facebook page is a useful space to advertise our activities. 'Morningside Messenger' gives us free advertising. We put up posters in the few places left who accept them. The banners on the railings remain useful.

Jam, Baking and Making Stall - Begun as a single venture in October 2016, this continues to make a useful contribution to church funds. The proceeds of the stalls from February to August paid for twenty replacement tables. In these eight years – despite the interruption caused by Covid –a total of £11,020 has been raised. It has long been a whole church venture and she is grateful for those outside the group who have been persuaded to join us in serving at the stall and to the faithful contributors from the congregation who bake, make jam, sew, knit and plant. Of course, new contributions are welcome from anyone. It need not be a monthly commitment – "just when you feel creative." Session was asked and approved that further proceeds from the stall would go towards replacing the remaining tables in the Braid Hall.



Christmas Cards - This is a much-appreciated gesture at Christmas time to all the congregation. The Roll Keeper and Alison Calder liaise annually to ensure that the list of recipients is correct and Alison uses her excellent organisational skills to have them signed, stamped and posted on time. The Moderator co-operates in signing them all without complaint!

Christmas Tree Festival – It has been decided to have the Christmas Tree Festival again from Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th December; on Saturdays 10am – 2pm and on weekdays 10am – 12 noon. Please note the changed and shorter weekday opening times. Since it looks like becoming a regular feature of our church's programme, the Committee aim to look to a wider group to help, for example in stewarding. Rona McLaren is already organising her army of crafters for another of her much-appreciated craft stalls. On the two Saturdays it is hoped to have musical performances from George Watson's Junior School and from Buckstone Community Choir who were so much appreciated last year. The event was never intended as a fundraiser but donations are accepted and will be divided this year between the Wednesday Club and the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. William Purves, the local undertakers, have again kindly agreed to sponsor us.

Social Committee - Fiona Stimpson Convenor reported-

Every year the Social Committee Report is slightly different from the year before because of events outwith our control. e.g. there was no Coronation this year! However, it has been a good year and the events which took place were very well supported and people seemed to enjoy them very much.

Coffees have continued to be served after church services every Sunday. The congregation and visitors to the Church seem really to enjoy the opportunity to meet and chat and feel part of the church community. Again, thanks must go to all the people who staff the teams which serve the coffees and clear up afterwards – it is a regular commitment which requires social skills and stamina! A special thank you, as always, has to go to Fiona Gossip who organises the rota (and does many extra shifts) and also buys all the biscuits.

In December, the Social Committee was responsible for serving coffees and mince pies with brandy cream on the two Saturday mornings of the Christmas Tree Event. On the second Saturday when Buckstone Community Choir was singing, the supply of mince pies almost ran out - only four were left at the end of a busy morning. On the Sunday between the two Saturdays, mulled wine and Christmas treats were enjoyed again after the family service.

At a committee meeting in February, after discussion, it was decided that the Afternoon Tea and Summer Lunch should be held on alternate years. Both incur a lot of work and some of the committee felt that it was too much to ask as both are held in the holiday period. It was also agreed that an event would be organised for Morningside and Greenbank who, under the Presbytery Plan, are going to be united in some way in the future.

On Easter Sunday, the traditional Easter Treats were served and went down well. This year there was the addition of some beautiful Iranian cakes made by Romina Ghorbani from Iran who has settled in Edinburgh and has joined the church with her husband and two daughters.

In March, soup and sandwiches were served to the people who were attending Jacqui's training classes on two evenings.

In April, the Committee helped the Outreach Committee with the catering for the Beetle Drive which was very popular.

In June, the committee was asked to supply and serve drinks and nibbles for the choir after they had sung a choral evensong service. This was the last Sunday for this year's choral scholars.

Afternoon tea was held on Saturday 13th July when 73 people were served. Just like last year, the numbers attending changed many times on the last week and even on the morning there was a change but there was a lovely atmosphere and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves very much. Many thanks are due to all who baked for it, made the sandwiches or arranged the flowers.

None of these events would be possible without the wonderful support we are given by the caretakers. They always go out of their way to help and it is very much appreciated. Stevie was great at sourcing a replacement urn for the kitchen. It took several weeks but having two urns is vital for any big event.



To the Social Committee members, Fiona gave a huge "thank you" for all they had done to make these events so successful. Events are hard work and a lot of effort goes into each one. But they are a vital part of our church's life. Not only do they raise money for the two charities which the church

supports as well as the church itself, but they provide much needed social contact for so many people.

Fiona picked out three people who deserve special thanks – Joan McKenzie for her support in all the decisions made and for helping to buy the food; to Aline Haggart who continues to keep the accounts meticulously and keeps an eye on the bank; and finally to her husband Robin who is not on the Social Committee but does a huge amount in the background.

She concluded by saying, as she has said before, it is hard work, but it is a lot of fun and it raises a lot of money. Her hope is this year will again be fun and rewarding too.

The Moderator expressed his and Session's thanks for the work of the Social Committee and its supporters which helped to develop not only a welcome to visitors but hospitality within the congregation.

Stewardship & Finance:— Robert Armour, Convenor gave an update on the Stewardship Campaign. In May, our Stewardship Campaign letter and leaflet was sent to around 300 members of the Congregation. Thank you to the 95 who have responded and have produced quantified increases amounting to £14,092 with Gift Aid bringing that to virtually £17,500. That has led to 58 increases in giving and a number of one-off donations. We have also seen increases in blue envelope FWO so there have been close to 100 responses overall.

That leaves around 200 members who have not responded. A 100% response rate will never be achieved but we can do better. In the next fortnight individually addressed reminders will be sent to those whom we have not heard from. People will be asked to confirm that they have considered their giving but leaving it to them to decide whether to reveal what they have decided to do.

We have yet to hear from Christian Aid on the sums realised from the foreign currency collection but will advise this later in 2024.

Volunteer Duties – Session agreed the draft format proposed to collate information about volunteers and the work they carry out. This is to create a Directory of Jobs, a database to be kept in the office to provide a source of key information, possibly of most use in the event of the sudden unavailability of a volunteer. Elders were asked to complete the forms and return to the office.

Disaster Management Plan – David Rimer enquired if Morningside Parish Church had a Disaster Management plan in place. The Moderator advised that we had emergency evacuation arrangements in place under Health & Safety requirements, and also arrangements made through the Church Office with local nursing homes should they face problems, but these might need to be reviewed if they were not reviewed regularly at the moment. The Kirk Session agreed to set up a small group to produce a plan and report back to a future Kirk Session

EDINBURGH NEWMAN ASSOCIATION, Thursday October 10th, 7.30pm,

Mayfield Salisbury Church of Scotland, 18 West Mayfield, Edinburgh EH9 1TQ.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Karen Groves MBE. Karen is a retired consultant in palliative medicine and Hospice Medical Education Director in South Lancs, Southport and Formby.

She is currently Honorary Professor at Edge Hill University where she has developed a Master's Program in palliative and end of life care. The title of Karen's talk is *Walking in the Winter of Life:* Preparing for Dying: the Greatest Adventure of our Lives.

All are welcome. There is a suggested donation of £5 to help cover the cost of our meeting.

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WORSHIP NOTES

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared on Sunday 8th October at 9.30am and 10.30am, both in the Church. At the 10.30am service, those who remain in the seated areas of the Church when wine is served will receive the individual cups. Those wishing to receive the Common Cup should join the Minister at the



appropriate point in the service at the vestibule end of the sanctuary where a table with the elements of bread and wine will be set. We gather at that table and hand the bread and wine to each other in a circle around the table. All are welcome to share in Communion in whichever way they choose.

Remembrance Sunday 2024

The Remembrance day service will be at 10.45am on Sunday 10th November. There will be no 9.30am Early Service that day.

BELIEVING AND BELONGING

Would you like to explore, or re-explore, some of the questions of faith and doubt, what it means to be a Christian, or ask questions that have always been on your mind about what Christians believe but never quite got round to it? The Believing and Belonging series might be for you! A thoughtful and reflective three evening gatherings in October and November, on Wednesdays 23rd and 30th October, and 6th November at 7.30pm in the Cluny Hall.

The three topics for study:

- 1. Who is Jesus?
- 2. Learning to love.
- 3. But what about ...?

Believing and Belonging is open to people of all ages, to those who might be thinking about becoming part of the Church, to those who want to top up their faith, and to those who simply have questions they want to explore. Come along if you're interested, or if you know someone who might want to take their questions about faith further, do let them know.

Contact the Minister for further details: telephone 0131 447 1617, or email derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members, admitted to the Church by resolution of the Kirk Session

Mr Vahid Vetr and Ms Romina Ghorbani

Ms Kate Hopkins

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Derek Ferguson, who died on 26 May 2024

John Lyon who died on 26 August 2024

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Morningside Hope

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Volunteer Celebration

25 volunteers were able to attend the volunteer celebration organised to thank, in some small way, the wonderful band of volunteers who have helped make Morningside Hope possible over these past three years +.

It was a really joyful afternoon with a table quiz, afternoon tea, sublime entertainment from Peter Foggitt followed closely by some ridiculous entertainment from Alex and Jacqui in the form of a short skit. Alex had pulled together a PowerPoint of photographs of the volunteers over the past few years and then Joyce Maclean, as our most senior volunteer, cut the amazing Morningside Hope Cake, very kindly donated by Helen Duffy. Finally, we asked everyone for some feedback, what's going well, what's not, what we could do differently etc.

Our thanks go to Helen and Peter, Alex who helped organise the whole event as well as serving at it, to Derek and Susan, who kindly gave up their Saturday afternoon to look after our band of volunteers so that they would not have to do anything for a change and to Ruth Bowman who donated a wonderful selection of teas which we all enjoyed.



Joyce Maclean cutting the delicious cake very generously donated by Helen Duffy



Volunteers enjoying afternoon tea at our volunteer celebration

Our biggest thanks of course go to the volunteers themselves, those who were able to come and those who sadly couldn't make it, without whom Morningside Hope would simply not have been possible. Here's to the next three years!

THANK YOU!

MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERTS - PETER FOGGITT

The Morningside Hope event on 1st September was a recital by the distinguished pianist Peter Foggitt, currently based in Munich, where he plays, teaches and conducts in the State Theatre. He had selected works illustrating how three composers were inspired by different themes and sources. Francois Couperin was a musical prodigy who became harpsichordist to Louis XIV and the programme opened with his Les Langeurs-Tendres, a lovely composition based on an attractive melody, in a heavily decorated style with quieter, peaceful sections giving an impression of plaintive longing, interspersed with more explosive, energetic, phrases.



It was followed by Bach's French Suite No. 2, in six parts, each movement based on a French dance and in two sections, the second a repeated, more ornamented version of the first. The Allemande was stately and measured, then came the Courante in a much faster, racier tempo. The Sarabande was slower, more thoughtful and deliberate, while the Air was swifter and more wide-ranging. The Minuet was at times a high-speed cascade of notes, followed by a development section. Finally came the Gigue, in a swinging, more syncopated rhythm.

The recital closed with Rachmaninov's "Variations on a Theme of Corelli" – as Peter told us – very international, composed in Switzerland by a Russian, on a Spanish tune made famous by an Italian violinist. It is a striking piece even though Peter described the theme as "boring" and the melody as "unpromising. In Rachmaninov's hands it became a tour de force, as he altered the harmony and developed the melody – with tremendous contrasts varying from slow to fast, quiet to loud, understated to emphatic, pensive to jaunty, lyrical to violent. At times it was trademark Rachmaninov as Peter hit the keys so hard one thought they might break. All held together as the familiar little tune emerged from time to time – a great piece of music.

I thoroughly enjoyed the recital, which was followed by refreshments held in the St Mathew Hall, packed with an appreciative audience, including a large number of people from the local care homes.

Barry Hughes

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Scottish Dancing meets on a Wednesday evening from 7.30 to 9pm in the Cluny Hall, except 16th, 23rd and 30th October and 6th and 20th, November when we meet in the Church.

We welcome those who wish to learn to those who like a social evening which involves dancing which is acknowledged as a good form of exercise.

Further information from Catriona Reid - 07929 866669





This is the umbrella name for the projects made possible by the generous grant received from TOR Christian Foundation and additional funding from the church itself.

2024 DATES:

HEART FOR ART: workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers

Held every Tuesday in the St Matthew's Hall 11am - 1pm

Annual Art Exhibition: Saturday 30th November





MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE workshops

for those with dementia and their partners/carers

Held in the Cluny Hall, 2-4pm.

October: Monday 7th Monday 14th Monday 21st

November: Monday 4th Monday 11th Monday 25th

December: Monday 9th Monday 16th (Christmas Party)

*** Visit from Nigel's All Stars, Traditional Scottish Music Group Monday 14 October.

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES Dementia friendly but **open to all 60+**.

The class will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

Held on Mondays, 2 - 4pm.

7th & 21st October 4th & 18th November 2nd & 16th December (Christmas Party)

GAMES AFTERNOON: open to **everyone**, these afternoons are a chance to meet up with friends old and new, play our favourite board games, jigsaws etc. and have a coffee and a catch up.

Held once a month on a Wednesday afternoon, 2 - 4pm

16th October 13th November 11th December (Christmas Party)

ANIMAL AFTERNOONS:

Wednesday 23rd October Alpacas 2pm

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We offer 4 or 5 dementia friendly concerts each year. Open to everyone, this will be a varied programme. The next one will be given by the Forget me Notes on Saturday 30th November at 2pm.

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, Part 2: running over two evenings, Tuesday 22nd & 29th October.

Open to those who have completed the introductory course above and want to further develop their skills and knowledge, 6 – 9.30pm each evening, starting with a light supper.

Specialist subject for the level two will be bereavement.

Interested in attending? Please come along to any of the above, you will be made most welcome. **Interested in volunteering?** If you would like to help with any of these activities please get in touch, we need a lot of willing hands to enable this exciting project to happen.

Interested in finding out a little bit more, just contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on 07834 364 628 or e mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

JAM, BAKING AND MAKING STALL

This stall began in October 2016 as a 'one off' but has continued whenever possible - apart from the interruption of Covid - ever since. It is held on the last Sunday of every month except December. The stall has been cancelled occasionally for some other important event (such as the Summer Lunch!) but we have had 62 stalls that have realised £11,021 - an astonishing total when you consider the modest items that we're selling.



It's fair to say that we sell whatever people give us to sell so we've had plants and garden produce too. We've also had some lovely crafted items - that is why we changed the name of the stall to add 'Making' to its title.

We rely on people to provide the goods and would welcome new contributors. You mustn't feel obliged to donate every month but it would be nice to see something different and no-one has ever complained about anything they have bought. For health and safety reasons, there must be no fresh cream and the ingredients must be listed.

Of course, we're also grateful to our faithful customers who have helped to achieve our impressive total - all for our own church's funds. Proceeds from the last seven stalls have paid for the twenty new tables that look good and are lighter for our hard working caretakers to manage. We have agreed to continue to put our proceeds towards a further fifteen tables. This means that each of our halls will have tables for use in that particular space - so avoiding the carrying of tables around the building - such a good idea that we ought to have thought of it earlier!

Thanks also to those who serve so willingly at the stall and to Jacqui who takes any unsold jam as gifts on her pastoral visits though this is only possible because of the tasty and incredibly varied jams and marmalades made so enthusiastically by Dr Horne.

Issie Paterson.

THREE SUMMER CONCERTS - August 2024

The first concert drew a gratifying large audience who enjoyed an extremely varied programme of keyboard music from the Baroque to the 20th century, played on two pianos by Margaret Donaldson and Morley Whitehead. It opened with a tuneful and lively little sonata by J. C. Bach and was followed by three Spanish dances by Moritz Moszkowski, the first fast and foot-tapping, the second slower and more complex, while the third was rhythmic and emphatic. Those of us who can find Francis Poulenc a bit challenging were agreeably surprised by his *L'Embarquement pour Cythère* – melodic variations on a pleasant, simple little tune. Two pieces by William Walton came next – *Touch her soft lips*, from his music to the 1944 film of Henry V, which was beautiful, calm and lyrical – followed by a syncopated, jazzy song from Façade, familiar to many of our generation as the theme to "*Face the Music*". Morley sang his eagerly-awaited novelty items - a sea shanty in his best Cornish dialect featuring Sailor Bill and *Captain Stratton's Fancy* written by John Masefield, set to music by Peter Warlock and featuring Sir Henry Morgan of alcoholic fame. The concert closed with two of Anton Dvorak's Slavonic dances – the Allegretto stately and harmonious and the Allegro fast and powerful. Overall, for anyone who appreciates lovely music, there can be fewer better ways of spending 45 minutes.

The second opened with a modern piece - Welsh composer William Mathias's *Processional*, - a set of variations on a jaunty tune and a rousing finale. It continued with the first movement of Haydn's cheerful *Concerto for Trumpet* – with its well-known trumpet teme, ably played by Terence O'Neill, one of our retiring organ scholars. Then came William Faulkes's *Theme with Variations in A* introduced by a series of chords with colourful variations, each

with its own character, on a theme reminiscent of G & S. Next came Vivaldi's *Concerto for two trumpets in C*, a familiar and well-loved piece of glorious Baroque music, Terence being joined by Patrick Kneen, also an ex-George Watson's pupil, with the trumpets proving well able to hold their own against the organ. The *Adagio for Glass Harmonica* is a delicate little fragment by Mozart, which I had heard a few years ago in the Usher Hall – and it sounded even better on the organ. Patrick, accompanied by Morley, then played the *Aria for Sonata and Piano* by Flor Peeters, the Belgian organist and composer, which is slow, melancholic and majestic. We ended with Widor's



Toccata – that marvellous and at times almost overpowering mountain of sound with its repetitive arpeggio motif and everchanging phrases which modulate through key after key. I can sum the concert up by quoting Sydney Smith "Heaven is eating pate de foie gras to the sound of trumpets".

The third concert was a recital by the talented young pianist Chiara Lordi. It began with two single movement sonatas by Franz Liszt, based on Petrarch's sonnets, written to impress a lady (Countess d'Agoult) who he was courting at the time. Sonata 104 had a slowish opening, then increased in power and tempo and closed with lovely, falling phrases. Sonata 123 started smoothly then became more intense with fiery bursts of notes interspersed with calmer, lyrical moments. Next came three works by Gabriel Fauré. Barcarolle in G flat is a lively piece, with

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cascades of notes racing from one end of the keyboard to the other, perhaps representing the gondolier paddling hard. Nocturne No. 4 was played at a fast tempo with Chiara's hands jumping around from octave to octave – not a nocturne one could doze off to. Impromptu No. 2 was more measured - an initial steady progression of chords then fierce bursts of intensity and volume with a final transition to a gentler closure. When I see on a programme a modern work by a composer I've never heard of, I feel a little trepidation. But Einojuhani Rautavaara's Piano Sonata No. 2 was an amazing experience – the first movement was indeed Molto Allegro, so fast one could barely follow it, starting with savage bass chords then rushing around at maximum volume. The Andante Assai was episodic, theatrical and powerful, with faster and slower sections, while the Andante Brutale was exactly that – massive, rhythmic chords jumping dramatically from bass to treble. Brilliant playing by Chiara, the whole recital entirely from memory. We wish her well in her future career.

The concerts raised over £4,000 towards funding our choral scholars in 2024-25. Thanks to all who came - they enjoyed some marvellous music and supported a very worthy cause.

Barry Hughes

FLOWER LIST

The flowers in October have been donated and will be arranged as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
Oct	6	Michael Hunter	Anne Armour &
			Issie Paterson
	13	Joyce Maclean	Penny Graham &
			Liz Munro
	20	Lawrence & Irene Hall	Joan Burnet
	27	Jennifer Rimer	Eleanor Watt



I would like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers. The cost is £45 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole, given to me on a Sunday or sent to the church office - clearly marked for my attention. If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me direct for bank details for the Flower Fund on irene a wilson@btinternet.com; Tel: 449 2866.

Our small band of Flower Ladies is, as always, looking for people to help with our displays. As someone who doesn't have an artistic bone in her body, I can safely say that you never know what you are capable of until you try and we are more than willing to pair up with anyone who would like to give it a go. There is no restriction on gender - if there are any gentlemen in the congregation who would like to join us, as they have done with the coffee rota, we would quite happily become Flower People. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are interested. I can be contacted at irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com (Tel: 0131 449 2866) or speak to any of the flower ladies taking down the displays on a Sunday.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the November issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18**th **October 2024** and it will be available by Sunday 3rd November. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

Inversnaid by Gerard Manley Hopkins

This darksome burn, horseback brown,
His rollrock highroad roaring down,
In coop and in comb the fleece of his foam
Flutes and low to the lake falls home.

A windpuff-bonnet of fáawn-fróth
Turns and twindles over the broth
Of a pool so pitchblack, féll-frówning,
It rounds and rounds Despair to drowning.

Degged with dew, dappled with dew,
Are the groins of the braes that the brook
treads through,
Wiry heathpacks, flitches of fern,

And the beadbonny ash that sits over the burn.



What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

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Remember to turn your clocks back by one hour on 27th October!

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