

Moravian Close in winter - a reflection



Our trees

Our 25 London plane trees, mulberry tree, lime, sycamore, Norway Maple, cherry, magnolia, Indian bean, and holm oak trees and 4 fig trees (in the centre of the Close), have all lost their leaves.

The sycamore seeds and the plane tree catkins have fallen. The fig trees kept their heavy fruit for a while, but it too falls eventually.

The shields at the North end of the Close

In winter, as the sun shines through bare tree branches, the shields' bright colours are highlighted.

Give thanks for their maker, Ernest Gillick, who researched and installed them to beautify this unique place, and to tell visitors something about the Close's history.

The Moravians arrived in the 18th century and still look after the Close today.

To bring feelings of calm, quietness, peace and restfulness...

Sit anywhere in the Close, or walk round seeing the bare branches above, and dead leaves under foot. Some mornings the exposed parts of the Close are covered by white frost, but not usually under the trees.

As shadows lengthen, and the days are very short, the trees have sensed that winter is here, They cut off nutrients to their leaves which eventually die and fall, becoming leaf mould which nourishes the tree in the future.

Winter can seem a sad and desolate time, but nature is waiting. We know that our own tiredness, sad thoughts, worries, grief, and troubles will pass when our waiting time is over. A lack of sunlight, long nights, and isolation or stress may make this time of year feel long and bleak, especially during these darker months, but the journey is easier when we move through it with the knowledge that we are not alone.

There is a Japanese proverb "One kind word can warm 3 winter months."

When you are ready to leave, give thanks for the cycle of nature.

