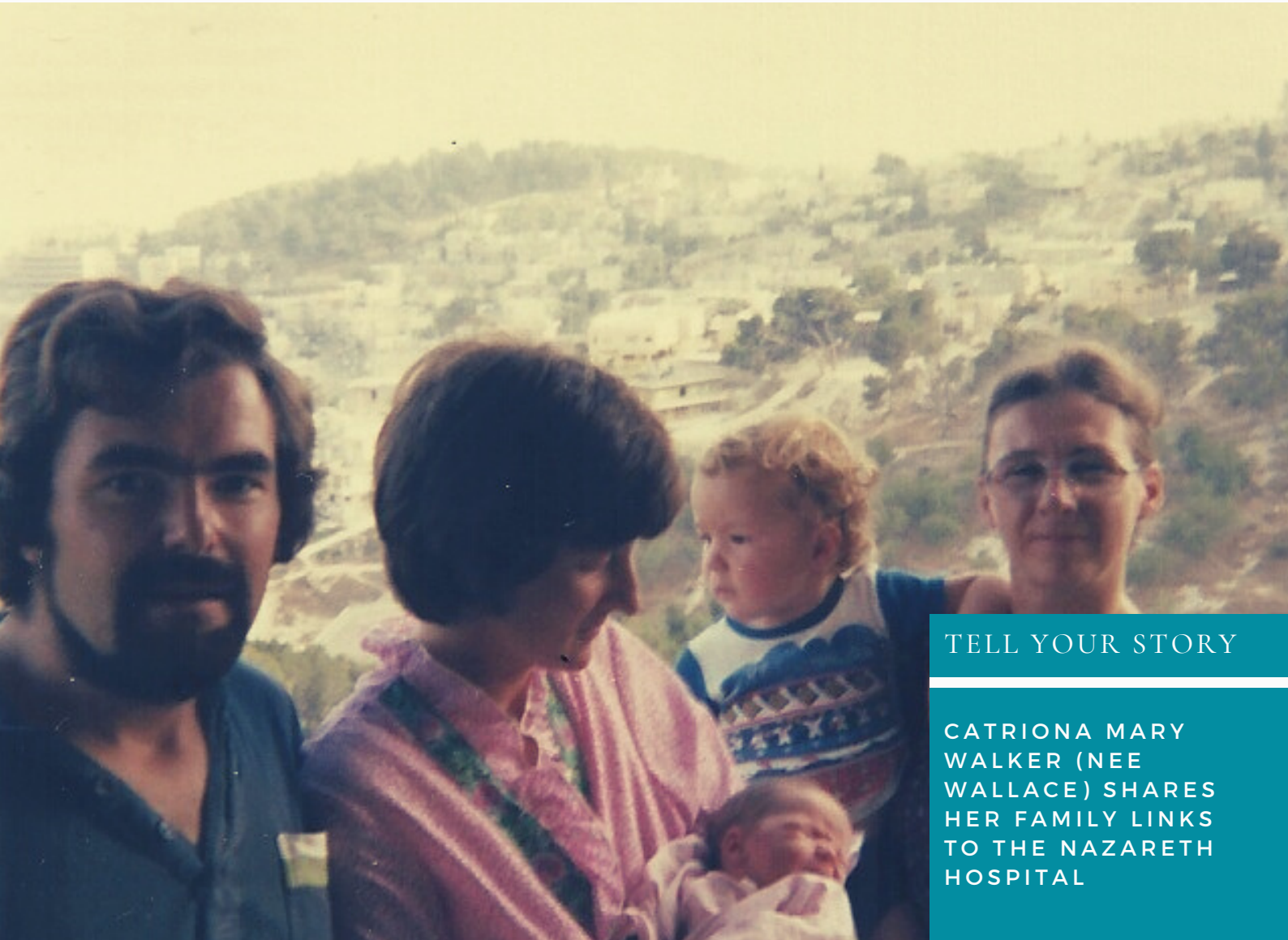


"WE LOVED THE SIGHTS AND BUSTLE OF MODERN ISRAEL"

FROM EDINBURGH TO NAZARETH



TELL YOUR STORY

CATRIONA MARY WALKER (NEE WALLACE) SHARES HER FAMILY LINKS TO THE NAZARETH HOSPITAL

Norman, Miriam, Kevin, Eleanor and Catriona (5/7/1979)

I was chatting with a friend earlier this year and I enquired about her new job. She started to explain who she worked for. I think she was quite taken aback by my response: "Yes, I know about the Nazareth Trust. In fact, I was born in the Nazareth Hospital". It wasn't really what she was expecting from this blond-haired, blue-eyed, Scottish girl! She was interested to hear my story and then invited me to write a piece for the newsletter.

The story really starts with my Dad (Dr Norman Wallace). He already had a connection with the Nazareth Hospital (known then as the EMMS

Hospital) as his cousin, Dr Eleanor Walker, was working there as an anaesthetist (she had been a permanent member of staff since 1972). Dad went as a student for his medical school elective placement and wanted to go back with my Mum (Miriam Wallace).

They went out there in 1978 with my brother, Kevin, when he was a toddler and stayed for a year. My Mum's cousin (Irene Murray) was also working there as a midwifery tutor but was not there during this time I was due to be born two weeks before their return flights home. I'm sure it was a relief to everybody when I

arrived one week early. Auntie Eleanor had a very busy work schedule and had informed my Mum, in jest, that the only suitable day for me to arrive would be Thursday 5th July. I willingly obliged!

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"Yes, I know about the Nazareth Trust. In fact, I was born at the Nazareth Hospital"





Catriona at the Nazareth Hospital, 1 day old

There was also a farewell party that day and my Mum even made it to that in the evening, with me in tow. My Dad, who was working in obstetrics in the hospital, was greatly relieved that a cesarean section was not needed, as had been required for my brother.

Whilst in Nazareth, my Mum and Dad made good friends with Dr Steve Baxter and his wife, Sue. They are still regularly in touch to this day. Their son, Jonathan, was also born in the Nazareth Hospital just a few weeks before me. Both families went out to visit in 1994 and Auntie Eleanor was our tour guide around Israel and Nazareth. Jonathan and I were able to see where we were born. We loved the sights and bustle of modern Israel.

Auntie Eleanor returned to Edinburgh in 1992 and studied for the ministry with the Church of Scotland. Sadly, she died from cancer aged 56 in 1996.

Dad has maintained his links with

the Nazareth Hospital, having previously been an EMMS board member, and has taken part in several Nazareth bike rides to raise money for the Trust.

Perhaps one day I will be able to take my own children out to visit my birthplace.

Miriam, Kevin and Catriona

