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YORK DISTRICT HOSPITAL MULTI-FAITH CHAPEL, YORK

Prayer Tree (1.3m x 2.7m) 2007



Commissioned by York District Hospital for its multi-faith chapel, *Prayer Tree* is a copper sculpture of leaf shapes containing green and gold-coloured glass. The glass leaf-shapes are both back-lit and partly illuminated by natural light.

The work is set in the corner of the chapel to the right of the altar so that when visitors enter the room they see the glowing glass leaves. The progression of colour from dark green to gold gives an ambience of peace and tranquillity.

The design is inspired by the natural form of a leaf taken from the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Prayer hooks lie along the veins of the leaves so that visitors to the chapel of York District Hospital can leave prayers for their loved ones. The cultural significance of hanging prayers on a prayer tree is an ancient practice and is done with the specific intention of bringing forward healing, luck, or some other beneficial purpose.



Helen Whittaker

STAINED GLASS
& SCULPTURE

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