

# MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL YORK



Commemorative panel to mark the 2008 restoration of Henry Cyles' earliest work (0.43m x 0.59m) 2008



The aim was to design and construct a new stained glass panel for the Merchant Taylors' Hall – one of four historic guildhalls in York. Helen Whittaker was commissioned to create a work which would be complementary to the design of the central panel by Henry Cyles (1645 – 1709) which was restored by Barley Studio in 2008.

Helen's new design follows a similar pattern to the 19th century panel. Within each band separating the new lettering, five types of tree found in York are represented: Horse Chestnut, Lime, Hawthorn, Silver Birch and Sycamore. At the centre of each band Helen has included the trunk of a tree supporting the foliage to create a better balance in the whole of the window as it provides a sense of foundation or grounding. The outer borders, patterned in ermine, utilise an amber stain to reinforce the link between the three panels. Lettering by Charles Smith FRSA.



Detail: New Panel

**Helen Whittaker**  
STAINED GLASS  
& SCULPTURE