

THE GRANGE RETREAT CENTRE

AMPLEFORTH ABBEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

'Pax amidst the thorns' (0.35 m x 1.15 m) 2023

The focal point of the artwork is the Benedictine motto 'PAX [meaning peace] amidst the thorns', shown surrounded by a circle of thorns. The thorns from the crown radiate outwards to form the stems of the plant, Paliurus spina Christi, believed to be the origin of Christ's crown of thorns.

The stained glass and sculpture comprises mouth-blown glass that is etched, painted, stained, gilded and plated, overlaid with copper and brass sculpture to accentuate the leadwork beneath.

The flowering stems, whilst laden by thorns, demonstrate the openness and growth of the flourishing Benedictine community. The thorns remind us of Christ's suffering, but also symbolise our redemption through His sacrifice.

Lettering by Tracery Sheppard FGE.

