

MERCHANT TAYLORS' HALL

YORK

Commemorative Panel (0.4m x 0.6m) 2008

The Merchant Taylors' Hall is one of four historic guildhalls in York, and is the home of the earliest known work by the York glasspainter Henry Gyles (1645 – 1709). This small heraldic panel had been restored by Barley Studio in 2008, and I was commissioned to create a new work celebrating the restoration, which would be complementary to the design both of the original Gyles panel and an existing panel commemorating its previous restoration in 1862.

My 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 the trunk of a tree supports the foliage, creating balance in the whole of the window and providing a sense of foundation or grounding. The outer borders, patterned in ermine, utilise an amber stain to reinforce the link between the three panels. The lettering is by Charles Smith FRSA.

