

Ceremony of tapestry dedication to the RAF Church

On Wednesday 20th June there was a special service of dedication at St Clement Danes church in the Strand to commemorate the Czech Airmen, who served in WW2, by unveiling a tapestry of the Last Supper that had been embroidered by Bozena Havrlikova, nee Klatilova, who had come to England in 1938 with her husband who was working for the Bata Shoe Corporation.

Bozena Havrlikova had been born in Zlín in 1918 where at that time the centre of Bata's operations was to be found. This was also the year that the RAF was formed on 1st April.

The tapestry of the Last Supper was donated to St Clement Danes, the church of the RAF, by her son and daughter in law, who are delighted that the tapestry (1.80 metres by 0.80 metres) has found such an appropriate and permanent home, especially as it would have been seen by the Czech Airmen who visited the home of Bozena Havrlikova during the war when on leave.

The service of dedication was conducted by the Padre David Osborn, to whom Stan and Judy Havrlik are eternally grateful for giving this home to the tapestry in the crypt of the church.

The service of dedication was attended by Colonel Jiří Niedoba, the Defence Attaché, and his assistant CWO Luděk Vyškovský from the Czech Embassy in London.

The music that accompanied the service, extracts from Dvořák's Rusalka, Smetana's Má Vlast and 633 Squadron, was played by Anthony Orr.

„Lépe pozdě než nikdy.“

Stan Havrlik

23rd June 2018