

PŘEŠTICE TODAY

A reflective visit to the
town of Přeštice
24th May 2011

The Westminster Synagogue Scrolls Committee, accompanied by the Curator and the Administrator of the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust, made a visit to their two Scroll towns, Přeštice and Horažďovice, in search of information about the Jewish communities and synagogues which existed before World War II. The Přeštice Scroll which was lent to the young learning community *Or Shabbat*, by the Memorial Scrolls Trust, now lives in the Westminster Synagogue Family Ark.



Rabbi Salamon with Pastor Jan Satke in the cemetery



Pastor of the Evangelical Church of the
Czech Brethren, with his son

“It was the Czech Brothers movement, the Hussite Church, which saved the artefacts from the now destroyed Synagogue.

It is they who keep the pictures and create memorials to the perished community.”

Rabbi Thomas Salamon



WS Scrolls Committee Co-Chairman Dan Smith with film-maker Josef Amado



The Pastor and Preštice officials reading our Preštice booklet

“In Preštice, the warmest of welcomes awaited us at the Evangelical church of the Czech Brethren. We visited the site where the synagogue had originally stood, and the town square where the Jews who perished are honoured now with a recent memorial.

We were invited to the Archivist's office, where we followed entries relating to Jewish residents through the centuries, clearly well integrated into the life of Preštice, though maintaining their own customs and beliefs. All this in the exquisitely written pages of the historical record, showing maps, street scenes, farming life and local events.”

Valery Rees



Reviewing the entries in the Přeštice
Town Chronicle

Although no Jews live today in Přeštice, our astonishing discovery of contemporary historical records in the Archivist's office gave us a glimpse of the vibrant Jewish community that once existed.

As we read from the Prestice scroll we will always remember the significance of the Přeštice Jewish community. Their lives will never be forgotten.

Alberta Strage
Chairman, WS Scrolls Committee



Přeštice Town Chronicle

“My lasting impression will be the image of the children of the Pastor happily climbing on the gravestones of the Přeštice Jewish Cemetery, and the smell of the newly mown grass.

It reminded me of our own happy children at Or Shabbat, and that the Přeštice Scroll, which now lives in the Or Shabbat Ark, is in good hands.”

Renee Salamon



Memorial to the Jews of Přeštice



Civic reception at the town hall

“At the civic reception I was presented with a bouquet of lush white roses to place on the Holocaust Memorial in the centre of the town square after a brief service led by Rabbi Salamon. We finished by joining together to say Kaddish and must all have wondered when it might last have been said in Přeštice.”

Evelyn Friedlander



Photos courtesy:
Chris Rees
Dan Smith
Renee Salamon
Henry Strage

Přeštice Cemetery