

## Getting to know the St Peter's Peace Pole

The St. Peter's Peace Pole resides in the garden to the North side of the church, parallel to Lutton Place, and was 'planted' in May 2012. Each peace pole in the world bears the words "May peace prevail on Earth" on its sides. Our pole has 4 sides and 8 languages contained on it as follows:

North West side: English & Arabic

South West side: Hebrew & Polish

South East side: Scottish Gaelic & Chinese

North East Side: Urdu & French



With the pole in our community, we are linking with people all over the world who have planted Peace Poles in the same spirit of peace. Peace Poles can be found on all the continents around the world. Our Pole has been used as the focus for a number of services and our thoughts over the years, and most recently in February 2017 was the central theme for a children's Sunday School session to engage them in the consideration of peace.

The idea of Peace Poles was first thought up by Masahisa Goi in 1955 in Japan. The Peace Pole Project today is promoted by The World Peace Prayer Society as well as other groups and individuals. The first Peace Poles outside Japan were constructed in 1983. Since then, more than 250,000 have been placed around the world covering nearly every country.

Peace Poles have been placed in such notable locations as the North Magnetic Pole, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, and the site of the Egyptian Pyramids in Giza, the Aiki Shrine in Iwama, Japan, as well as numerous community parks.

Peace Poles are made of many materials. Most are made of wood, though ours is of plastic in order to better survive the wet, shaded environment. Others are made of limestone or copper or plastic or stainless steel. The text might be painted, carved, etched, welded, pasted, or riveted on. In some cases it merely is a plastic plaque attached with screws. In other cases it is the careful work of an artist or sculptor.

Next time you are at church why not stop at the Pole, reflect and maybe say a prayer dedicated to peace?

