

Press Release

Date: 24th March 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St Albans Bereavement Network (SABN) Announces New Chair and Special Awards for Volunteers at Biennial Meeting

At last night's St Albans Bereavement Network's (SABN) Biennial Meeting, departing Chairman Dr Michael Elves announced that the Right Reverend John Gladwin has agreed to become the Network's next Chair.

John Gladwin will take up his role as SABN Chair from May 2014. Speaking about his appointment, the **Right Reverend John Gladwin** remarked that: "We all need help and support at moments of loss or bereavement. It is a special delight to be asked to take on this role. The work of SABN plays a crucial part in the well-being of our community."

John and his wife Lydia have been involved with the Network since 2011 when John became a Patron and Lydia took on the role of leading the Wheathampstead Bereavement Group. John retired as Bishop of Chelmsford in 2009 following a long career in the Church of England. John has had many years of voluntary sector



St Albans & District Bereavement Network
10 years of bereavement support in the local community

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Registered Charity no. 1094636

experience including 11 years as the Chair of Christian Aid and most recently he has been Chair of the National Association of Citizens Advice.

The Deputy Mayor of the City & District of St Albans, Councillor Brian Gibbard and **Harpenden Town Mayor, Councillor Rosemary Farmer** joined guests, volunteers and members of the local community for the meeting held at SABN's premises in central St Albans.

The evening was also an occasion to recognise the important contribution made to the local community by SABN's volunteers. **Ann Barnes, Carole Peacock, Hilary Hunter, Catherine Levy** and **Kate Farman** all received special awards for their significant contribution to the work of the Network, supporting people who have been bereaved. A number of volunteers, Trustees and the **Network Manager, Vivian Lawman** received long service awards, between them notching up almost 150 years of service.

On behalf of the Network, **Sandy Walkington, SABN's Vice Chairman** bid a heartfelt farewell to long serving **Chairman, Dr Michael Elves** who has been involved with the Network since its conception in 2002 and has served as Chairman of the Trustees for the past 7 years.

In his final message as Chairman, Michael said "I have seen some important changes in SABN as we have sought to develop our services to support people in our community who are bereaved and to meet their needs. I have found this both stimulating and personally rewarding, which is in no small measure due to those colleagues that I have been privileged to work with over these years. I will end by wishing SABN continuing success in the years that lie ahead."



For more information or if you would like to talk to someone about the loss of a loved one, please contact the SABN Helpline on **01727 841841** or visit our website for further advice and support www.sabn.org.uk.

Contacts:

For more information, please contact:

SABN: Vivian Lawman (Network Manager) / Fran Brown (Network Administrator)

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Notes to the editors:

SABN has been providing support to bereaved children, young people, adults and their families who live within the St Albans City and District. With over ten years of experience and a network of around 70 specially trained volunteers and qualified counsellors, we have helped more than 3,000 people cope with their grief, make sense of their loss and move forward with hope. Each year SABN supports on average 160 adults, children and young people.

The consequences of the death of a close relative are huge for everyone but particularly for children whose lives may be totally disrupted. Services are provided free of charge and SABN is reliant on grants and voluntary donations, in addition to the services of our trained volunteers.

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