



# Press Release

**Date: Wednesday, 27th November 2013**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Loved ones remembered in special service at St Albans Cathedral.**

**A special afternoon for remembering loved ones began with a symbolic release of doves outside the West End Doors of St Albans Cathedral.**

A large crowd of adults, families and young people gathered outside the Cathedral to watch as a flock of doves was released, followed by prayers led by Ecumenical Chaplain Reverend Peter Hudson. The Cathedral bells chimed out as the doves soared into the sky and headed off on their journey home.

Many people then made their way into the Cathedral to join together with others for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving organised by the St Albans Bereavement Network and the Cathedral's Ecumenical Chaplaincy. The service was attended by the Countess of Verulam, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, the Mayor of St Albans, Councillor Annie Brewster, Honorary Alderman Chris Oxley and other guests.

Dr Michael Elves, SABN's Chairman welcomed the congregation of some 1,000 adults, families, young people and children who filled the Cathedral. The service

	<b>St Albans &amp; District Bereavement Network</b> 10 years of bereavement support in the local community
website: <a href="http://www.sabn.org.uk">www.sabn.org.uk</a> email: <a href="mailto:help@sabn.org.uk">help@sabn.org.uk</a> (helpline) <a href="mailto:admin@sabn.org.uk">admin@sabn.org.uk</a> (admin)	PO BOX 671, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 3ZX Tel: 01727 841841 (Helpline) 01727 841914 (Admin) Registered Charity no. 1094636



is a very popular annual event with the local community and many people had travelled from across the country to join with family and friends to attend.

The Sub Dean of St Albans Cathedral, Canon Richard Watson led the service. The Sub Dean invited all the children to come forward and shared with them a topical analogy from 'The Day of the Doctor'. He likened the tardis key enabling Dr Who to finally make his journey home to the releasing the doves for their flight home and Jesus's journey home to his Father's house. The children were then invited to collect personal messages of remembrance written on paper doves by members of the congregation and bring them to the altar to be hung on the Trees of Remembrance.

Two former SABN clients addressed the congregation. Robert Clarke read an Anne Bronte poem, The Blue Bell in memory of his father and Anita Bramwell spoke movingly of her journey through bereavement.

The Right Reverend John Sherrington, Auxiliary Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster addressed the congregation. The Bishop spoke about how helpful joining together with others can be to help cope with loss and how the light of one small candle when joined with many candles produces more light, heat and hope. The congregation were then invited to remember their loved ones by lighting a candle in front of the Cathedral main altar. In the fading light of the afternoon with the melodic singing of the Abbey Girls Choir the candles were a poignant symbol of remembrance.

After the service many of the congregation spoke about how meaningful the service had been and how beneficial it had been coming together with others to remember the lives of their loved ones.

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Each year SABN compile a book of Remembrance and anyone wishing to have the name of their loved one inscribed in the 2014 book should contact SABN by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. The 2014 Book of Remembrance will be placed in the Ramryge Chantry, close to the high altar at Easter 2014 where it can be viewed for the next 12 months. 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](http://www.sabn.org.uk).

**ENDS**

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**Contacts:**

*For more information, please contact:*

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

**Tel:** 01727 841914 (Admin Line)

**email:** [admin@sabn.org.uk](mailto:admin@sabn.org.uk)

**Website:** <http://www.sabn.org.uk>

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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 for more than 10 years; helping individuals and families to make sense of their loss and move forward with hope.

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The consequences of the death of a close relative are huge for everyone but particularly for children whose lives may be totally disrupted. Now in its tenth year, SABN offers support to bereaved children, young people, adults and their families who live within the St Albans City and District, to enable them to make sense of their loss and move forward with hope. Services are provided free of charge and SABN is reliant on grants and voluntary donations, in addition to the services of a large group of highly trained volunteers.

**ENDS**

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

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