

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**11 October 2013**

### **St Albans Mayor opens new base for bereavement support network**

The Mayor of St Albans opened new premises for the St Albans Bereavement Network (SABN) in St Catherine Street, St Albans on Wednesday 9 October.

Established in 2002, the charity has until recently been operating from offices at the Trinity United Reform Church.

Now it has moved to a more central location with additional space to provide advice, support and counselling to bereaved adults and children.

Cllr Annie Brewster, Mayor of St Albans City and District, said: "I am delighted to open these new premises for St Albans Bereavement Network. The charity is an invaluable part of the community and does wonderful work to support bereaved adults, families, young and children in St Albans District. I know many people have received emotional and practical help from the network at a time of great need. On behalf of the community I thank the 100 or so trained volunteers who offer support, home visits and counselling to the bereaved."

The charity was founded by Dr Mary Groves Rowe, MBE, and Reverend Colin Rowe who both also attended the opening. It now handles more than 1,500 calls a year to its helpline 01727 841841 and provides more than 5,000 hours of counselling support.

Dr Michael Elves, Chairman of SABN, said: "I am very grateful to the Mayor, our patrons, and everyone who has supported us in our move to these great new premises. There is an office and counselling room space which is really fit for purpose and will allow us to increase the level of support we offer to people of all ages. Its central location in the City means that we are now much more accessible. The charity was set up in response to concerns raised in the local community that bereaved people had no one to turn to. The network supports bereaved children, young people and families as well as adults. We also advise professionals, organisations and carers and the number of people we help continues to grow."

More information about St Albans Bereavement Network can be found on their website at: <http://www.sabn.org.uk/>

**The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City and District of St Albans,  
Councillor Annie Brewster**

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**Picture caption:**

Cllr Annie Brewster, Mayor of St Albans City and District, and Dr Michael Elves, Chairman of St Albans Bereavement Network opening the charity's new premises

