

Press Release

Date: Wednesday, 28th November 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dove Release and special Service at the Cathedral in Memory of Loved Ones.

On Sunday afternoon a large crowd gathered outside the Cathedral to watch a symbolic release of doves and join together to remember loved ones who have died.

A flock of 30 doves was released outside the West End doors of St Albans Cathedral as part of a special service to remember and give thanks for the lives of loved ones. Around 1,000 adults, families and young people gathered outside the Cathedral before the service to watch as the birds were released. Prayers were led by the Reverend Peter Hudson and the Cathedral bells chimed as the doves rose into the sky and headed off on their journey home.

Many of the children and young people attending the service had experienced bereavement during the year. The Sub Dean, Canon Richard Watson spoke to the children about their bravery in dealing with their losses. The children were then invited to place paper doves with their special messages to those who had died on the two remembrance trees before returning to the congregation to collect

	St Albans & District Bereavement Network 10 years of bereavement support in the local community
website: www.sabn.org.uk email: help@sabn.org.uk (helpline) admin@sabn.org.uk (admin)	PO BOX 671, St. Albans, Herts, AL1 3ZX Tel: 01727 841841 (Helpline) 01727 841914 (Admin) Registered Charity no. 1094636

messages from the adults. Every branch was laden with messages and special memories. Later the children joined with the adults to light candles in remembrance.

The Right Reverend John Gladwin, the former Bishop of Chelmsford and Patron of SABN addressed the congregation. He spoke about how important it is to have the support of people who can walk with us and talk with us, helping us make the journey through loss and eventually to be able to move on with our lives with hope.

Emma and Amelia Voss shared their moving experiences of bereavement. Laura Vickery-Bradley read her own special poem in memory of her mother and Vivian Lawman, SABN Network Manager led the prayers.

The service has become a very popular annual event, organised by the St Albans Bereavement Network together with the Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the Cathedral, with many people travelling from across the country to attend. The service was also attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire – Howard Guard Esq DL and the Deputy Mayor of St Albans - Councillor Julie Bell.

Afterwards many of the congregation spoke about how moved they had been by the service and how important it had been to them coming together with others to remember the lives of their loved ones.

A new Book of Remembrance is being prepared for 2013 and names may be submitted to SABN for inclusion before 31 December 2012. 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.

ENDS

Contacts:

For more information, please contact:

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Notes to the editors:

Now in its tenth year, SABN offers free 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.

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 a large group of highly trained volunteers.

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