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# The White Dove Company - Service and Release Options:

# The Doves

Our doves are homebred and each one of them has been extensively and knowledgeably trained to navigate back to its home once released

# What Happens on The Day

An experienced and smartly dressed dove handler will arrive with the dove(s) and meet at a previously agreed place:

- At graveside
- Crematorium
- At the place of worship/prayers i.e. church, mosque etc
- At the house before the funeral leaves
- At the wake
- A memorial site

#### The Release

Our dove(s) can be released by hand, from single dove carriers or from baskets. We will ask at the time of release if the family wish to proceed by hand

- After the service
- Before the service
- At graveside during prayers or as the coffin is being lowered or after backfill when the grave is full and dressed with flowers
- Crematorium flower terrace

## The Symbolic Dove

The dove carries hope and comfort at this difficult time – As the dove begins its journey home it can lift joyful memories on an emotional day

- A SINGLE DOVE Symbolises the soul and spirit of the deceased
- A PAIR OF DOVES Symbolic of the joining of two souls perhaps the deceased is joining another who has already departed
- THE TRINITY RELEASE Four white doves symbolises The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: "one God in three persons"...

  And the soul departed. Three doves are released together shortly followed by the fourth to be carried to heaven
- Family and Friends may each release a dove making their own individual contribution and gesture

## Funerals Can Be Especially Hard For Children

Releasing a dove will leave children with a lasting memory they can treasure. Doves 'are' released by children at the funeral. However, we often bring doves to the cemetery later in the day for children to release after the funeral has finished. Our dove handlers will assist young children to release the dove(s)

A Flock of Doves - Can be released to celebrate the life and enjoyed and remembered by friends and family

**Personal Messages Can Be Attached To The Doves** – private messages can be written on soft paper (not card) 10mm x 40mm and attached to the bird's ring before flight. The messages are usually lost in flight on the way home

The family will receive personalised memorial cards and naturally moulted white eathers in a little bag as a keepsake