

# Loss AND HOPE

We the community of .....have committed to becoming a **Bereavement Friendly Church** as part of the Loss and HOPE initiative. We are working towards achieving the following 12 marks;

1. Providing bereavement awareness training for the church community.
2. Raising awareness of what it is helpful to say or not say to those bereaved.
3. Developing a carefully selected and trained bereavement support team.
4. Ensuring a trained bereavement church lead is appointed to supervise those supporting bereaved people, and represent bereavement needs in church decision making processes.
5. Providing appropriate support to bereaved people when faith questions arise.
6. Affirming suffering within the church community as a legitimate Christian experience.
7. Ensuring that theological messages are helpful for those who have been bereaved.
8. Developing a realistic approach to healing and ensuring 'good deaths' are prepared for.
9. Ensuring all bereaved people connecting with this church are signposted to bereavement support services.
10. Developing special activities for those bereaved to support the grief journey, and for remembrance.
11. Reviewing all aspects of church life for welcome to and impact on those bereaved.
12. Making provision within the church for those who are mourning to find respite, comfort and peace.

We will report our progress regularly through.....

Signed.....Role.....

Signed.....Role.....

Date.....

If you have been bereaved or have suggestions to help us achieve the 12 marks, please speak to us.