



Role Description

Head of Church Engagement - Bereavement Friendly Communities

AtaLoss is a charity with the vision of everyone who has been bereaved in the UK finding timely and appropriate support, to process their loss for their future wellbeing.

We aim to:

- change the culture around grief and bereavement,
- ensure grieving people have good access to services and information,
- mobilise effective community support, and
- ensure the charity develops into a central bereavement support provider, sustainable into the future.

We do this by:

- engaging with the media, stakeholders and influencers,
- providing a central signposting website of services and information,
- presentations and training, and
- by specifically equipping churches to offer support, in particular *The Bereavement Journey*[®] course. This transforms people's lives and supports spiritual questioning, in turn leading to church growth.

Having grown steadily since 2016 against the back-drop of 'death denial', grief is now very much on the public radar. As a charity we are in a time of considerable growth, with over 300 churches now running *The Bereavement Journey* course, and many opportunities to engage in partnership and profile. The Trustees and CEO are now seeking a Head of Church Engagement - Bereavement Friendly Communities to help the charity achieve its aims and objectives across churches.

Outline of the role:

The Head of Church Engagement - Bereavement Friendly Communities is a new senior role within the charity with responsibility for leading and extending the reach of the Loss and HOPE project, which trains and equips churches in bereavement support. The project currently equips Christian organisations and churches to run *The Bereavement Journey* peer group support programme, as well as offering training webinars in Bereavement Friendly Church for leaders and training youth leaders to support children and young people through loss (the ListeningPeople project). The General Manager - The Bereavement Journey is supporting churches to run *The Bereavement Journey*. The new Head of Church Engagement - Bereavement Friendly Communities will take the wider project forward helping churches to become more bereavement friendly and to become leaders in bereavement support in their communities.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Raising awareness:

- Attend online and in person church stakeholder meetings and events where high level influence can be attained.
- Responsibility for engagement and the fostering of relationships with Christian organisations and networks to raise awareness of the need and opportunity of bereavement support, the issues and potential outcomes of unsupported grief and to raise the profile of AtaLoss, in particular its work with churches.
- Responsibility for developing and maintaining partnerships with Christian organisations and networks for mutual benefit or to promote, develop or resource the charity's work with churches.
- Leading on promotion generally of the charity's aims and objectives to Christians across all denominations, extending the charity's reach to a greater range and diversity of churches.
- Being the first port of call for media interviews and articles with the Christian media.
- Contributing to promotional materials, managing newsletters and curating content for social media posts with the guidance of the Marketing/Communications team and in conjunction with the General Manager - The Bereavement Journey and Senior Leadership Team.
- Managing the charity's presence at and attending exhibitions for networking and promotion of the charity's services to Christian audiences.

2. Training and resourcing:

- Assisting with, leading to responsibility for, the delivery of Bereavement Friendly Church webinars alongside the General Manager - The Bereavement Journey, and assisting with the delivery of Introducing The Bereavement Journey webinars.
- Assist in the development and delivery of stage 2 Bereavement Friendly Church webinars alongside the CEO, the General Manager - The Bereavement Journey and Bereavement Friendly Communities coordinator.
- Lead on the development of content for the Loss and HOPE website to resource the Bereavement Friendly Church Charter's marks in line with good bereavement support practice and the charity's theology.
- Build a team of Bereavement Friendly Church trainers and regional ambassadors to respond to local speaking and training opportunities across the UK, promoting the charity's services, good bereavement support and theology.
- Create webinar and film training for under resourced subject areas pertaining to churches and bereavement care, such as dealing with a death in the congregation and preparing people for good deaths.
- Develop and deliver online and in person presentations with Christian stakeholders, such as training colleges and church conferences, prioritising cost effectiveness.
- Scope and produce alongside the Senior Leadership Team and partners new resources for effective bereavement support by churches, such as a book on Bereavement Care and Lent course on grief.

3. Developing Bereavement Friendly Churches and Communities

- Follow up participants of Bereavement Friendly Church webinars to encourage sign up to the Bereavement Friendly Church Charter, identify flagship churches and disseminate good practice.
- Curate case studies for dissemination of good practice through the Loss and HOPE website.
- Inspire and equip churches adopting the Bereavement Friendly Church Charter to become catalysts in their communities for effective bereavement support.
- With the help of the Bereavement Friendly Communities Coordinator, General Manager -The Bereavement Journey and stakeholders/partners, develop a replicable model for enabling churches to collaborate with their local networks for effective community bereavement support (Bereavement Friendly Communities) and implement its roll out across the UK.
- Liaise with agencies and stakeholders at high level to ensure AtaLoss' involvement in the development of relevant national initiatives of which churches can play a part e.g. Compassionate Communities.

4. Senior Leadership Responsibility

- Working with the CEO and Senior Leadership Team to scope the shape and future of the Loss and HOPE project.
- Working with the CEO and Senior Leadership Team to scope the development of the Loss and HOPE website and its relationship to the AtaLoss and *The Bereavement Journey* websites.
- Alongside the Senior Leadership Team involvement in decision making and shaping the strategic direction of the charity.
- Working to ensure that processes between the Loss and HOPE project and other areas of work of the charity are joined up and seamless.
- Reporting to the Board of Trustees three times per annum and regularly to the CEO.

5. General

- Foster a collaborative and inclusive work environment, effectively communicating changes, promoting teamwork, cooperation and cross-departmental collaboration, to ensure swift and uninterrupted achievement of the charity's goals.
- Be a positive representative for the charity's values and work among all stakeholders.
- Approach work prayerfully, cooperatively, diligently and flexibly.
- Contribute to the charity's succession plan to ensure continuity.

Person Specification

- **All applications must be committed to the mission, ethos and values of AtaLoss**

This post is subject to an Occupational Requirement

AtaLoss works closely with churches, and partners with Christian organisations towards the delivery of its aims. The nature of the work requires that this post holder has an active Christian faith under the Equality Act 2010, Part 1, Schedule 9.

Equal Opportunities

We actively support and welcome integration of people from diverse backgrounds to help shape the work and future of AtaLoss.

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| Qualifications/ Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ordained |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological degree or theological training as part of ordination training |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church leadership experience • Wide ecumenical experience • Senior church network experience • Bereavement support experience |
| Knowledge & Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the impact of bereavement and the journey of grief • Proficiency in supporting people through loss • Proven success of mission through community engagement |
| Person Profile | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A born leader with excellent communication and interpersonal abilities. • Passionate about bereavement support and future wellbeing. • Supportive of the AtaLoss Faith Questions in Bereavement theological perspective. • Excellent speaking and presentation skills. • Inspirational and persuasive • Compassionate and empathetic. • Persistent and determined to find solutions, with adaptability and flexibility. • Natural collaborative worker both internally and externally. • Open and informative workstyle. • Humility with willingness to be guided and to learn. • Ability to assess and prioritise opportunities for potential and cost-effectiveness. • Willing to help when needed in other aspects of the charity's work to deliver success. |

Context for the role

This is a new role created to support the growth of the charity, prior to the planned appointment of a new charity lead to release the charity's CEO to focus on main ambassador responsibilities. The role will be supported by a Team Support Manager and Marketing/Communications team and be responsible for the part-time Bereavement Friendly Communities Coordinator, part-time Bereavement Friendly Church Trainer and part-time ListeningPeople Project lead.

The Head of Church Engagement - Bereavement Friendly Communities will be at the heart of a growing organisation and therefore the role will undoubtedly evolve over the months and years to come, with new staff potentially being appointed to the team and the organisational structure under regular review. We are open to the possibility of the person working part-time and to adapting priorities accordingly. As roles develop, we regularly review our salaries, including benchmarking with similar organisations.

Terms and conditions

Job title: Head of Church Engagement – Bereavement Friendly Communities

Location: Remote with expectation of travel across the UK

Salary range: On application

Contract type: initial 2-year fixed term contract with employment expected beyond 2 years.

Hours: Full time. 37.5 hours per week (5 days), with the possibility of working flexibly fewer or shorter days (minimum equivalent 2.5 days per week). Expectation of working some evenings and weekends with time off in lieu.

Team(s): Part of the Senior Leadership Team, working closely with the CEO and General Manager - The Bereavement Journey

Responsible to: The CEO

Responsible for: ListeningPeople Project Lead, Bereavement Friendly Church Trainer, Bereavement Friendly Communities Coordinator

Supported by: the Team Support Manager and Marketing/Communications team

Note: This job description is intended to convey information essential to understanding the scope of the position and is not an exhaustive list of skills, efforts, duties, responsibilities, or working conditions associated with it.

How to apply

Please write a covering letter with CV and send as soon as possible (with Head of Church Engagement in the email title) to Yvonne.Tulloch@ataloss.org copy Kate.Webster@ataloss.org. Interviews will be held with immediate effect and continue until a suitable applicant is found. We expect each to begin with an informal conversation to meet and hear more about the role. If invited to formal interview, this will be in two stages and will be held virtually at mutually convenient times. If you have any questions about this role or would like to arrange an informal conversation, please email Yvonne.Tulloch@ataloss.org.