

Town Pastors (Bury St Edmunds)

Before completing the accompanying application form, please read the following explanatory notes. These are intended to help you decide if you wish to apply to be a Town Pastor.

What is a Town Pastor?

A Town Pastor, working as part of a team and in collaboration with the police and local council, seeks to be a positive influence principally on the streets of the town centre and other night life areas. Town Pastors would typically be out at the weekends in these places from around 10.00pm until the early hours.

The role of a Town Pastor is not primarily evangelistic but rather about listening, caring and helping young people. It is about showing concern and offering assistance where appropriate, in a non-judgmental and unconditional way.

Town Pastors seek to be a positive presence on the streets, available to offer support to vulnerable people, de-escalate potential trouble and generally assist the police and other agencies.

For reasons of personal safety and to make the most effective use of the Town Pastors, they are monitored by CCTV in the town centre area and are in radio contact with the CCTV control room.

The police and local council support Town Pastors on the streets of Bury St Edmunds. Town Pastors has been in operation in Bury St Edmunds since May 2008, and we are now seeking to recruit additional Town Pastors.

Expectations and Commitment

A team of four Town Pastors will usually be out on the streets at any time. The team will then divide and patrol in pairs. The desire and ability to work as part of a team is therefore essential.

To be a Town Pastor you must be over 18 and a Christian who is part of a local church.

Town Pastor teams are out in the town centre on most Saturday nights. The teams patrol from 10.00pm to around 4.00am. Each Town Pastor is expected to be out on one night a month. You will be given the opportunity to indicate your availability each month.

Training

Training is an essential part of becoming a Town Pastor. Effective training also ensures we can deliver a quality service in a consistent way. Each Town Pastor *must* have completed the basic training programme before going out on patrol.

Additional training will also be delivered, and it is important that Town Pastors commit to participating in their ongoing training and development.

The basic training package will cover:

- The values, role and responsibilities of a Town Pastor
- Prayer
- Drug and alcohol awareness
- Personal safety and conflict management
- Basic First Aid

This training will be delivered in training sessions on the following dates: Saturday 16th May 2026, 9.00am – 4.00pm
And four evenings: Wednesday 20th May, Thursday 4th June, Monday 8th June, Tuesday 16th June.

It is essential that would-be Town Pastors attend all sessions. If you are unable to attend on any of the above dates, it may be possible to arrange for that training session to be repeated or undertaken with another Suffolk Town Pastor scheme in a different Suffolk town.

How to apply

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Town Pastor. The first step towards this is to complete and sign the accompanying application form and ask your church leader to sign it. Please return the signed form by post to:

Mrs Jo Copsey, Sundial House, Bargate Lane, West Row, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 8PS.

Or scan your signed form and return by email to: info@burytownpastors.org.uk

If possible, applications should arrive by Tues 5th May 2026. Applications received after this date will be considered as long as places are still available on the Town Pastor training course.

Interviews will be held on the following evening: Monday 11th May 2026.

Please indicate if you are available on the interview date. An interview can be arranged on an alternative date if you are not able to attend on the interview date, or you apply after the interview date.

All Town Pastors will be required to have an enhanced check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

If you would like to find out more, or to arrange to shadow with the Town Pastors before applying, please contact: Mrs Jo Copsey - Tel 07594 334215 or email - info@burytownpastors.org.uk