

Town Pastors (Bury St Edmunds) Reference Form

To help with our selection process please can you provide a reference for the applicant:

1. Applicants Details

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel (day): _____ (eve): _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

To help you in completing this reference please read the following notes. These are intended to explain the task of a Town Pastor and help you assess the suitability of the applicant wishing to apply for this role.

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.

The role of a Town Pastor is about listening, caring and helping young people. It is about showing concern and offering assistance where appropriate as ambassadors for Christ, in a non-judgmental and unconditional way. Town Pastors are not there as evangelists, but can share their faith if asked, in ways that respect the questioners.

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 others.

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 work closely with the police and are governed by a protocol agreed with Suffolk Constabulary.

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.

Town Pastors must be over 18, Christian and part of a local church.

Town Pastor teams are out in the town centre on most Saturday nights. The teams patrol from 10pm to around 4am on these nights. On average, each Town Pastor is expected to be out one night a month.

Please be assured that all information given will be treated in the strictest confidence.

1. Personal details of referee:

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel no: _____ Email: _____

2. Relationship to the applicant:

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Relationship to you: _____

3. Relating with others:

a) Relationship Building

Please indicate below how you feel the applicant relates to others. How do they fare at fostering and maintaining good relationships with other people in a variety of contexts?

Relationship building

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent I don't know

Please comment below to bring greater clarity, if required (particularly if you have given a low rating)

b) Interpersonal skills

Please indicate below how you rate the applicant's interpersonal skills. eg. Do they find it easy to engage in conversation with people they have never met or don't know well? Are they shy or confident? etc.

Interpersonal skills

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent I don't know

Please comment below to bring greater clarity, if required (particularly if you have given them a low rating)

c) Teamwork

Is the applicant a good team player. eg. Do they find it easy to contribute in the team environment? Are they happy serving under a team leader? etc.

Team player

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent I don't know

Please comment below to bring greater clarity, if required (particularly if you have given them a low rating)

4. Physical fitness:

On a typical shift, a Town Pastor will stand for long periods of time and could walk up to 8 miles. Do you believe that the applicant is capable of this?

Yes No I don't know

Comment further if necessary:

5. Reliability:

Rate the applicant's reliability. eg. Are they dependable and true to their word?

Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 Reliable I don't know

Please comment below to bring greater clarity, if required (particularly if you have given them a low rating)

6. Willingness to learn:

Rate the applicant's willingness to learn. eg. Would they see the need for ongoing training in a Town Pastor's role? Are they able to effectively reflect on their own performance and modify their actions if needs be? Do they receive constructive criticism well? etc.

Willingness to learn

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent I don't know

Please comment below to bring greater clarity, if required (particularly if you have given them a low rating)

7. General suitability of the applicant:

Is there any reason why the applicant may be unable to fulfil the role of a Town Pastor (as stated above)?

No

Yes

If yes, please give brief details:

8. Recommendation:

Include here why you would recommend the applicant to be a Town Pastor, and/or any reservations you may have

9. Personal Declaration:

To the best of my knowledge, the information I have given on this form is current and accurate.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to: **Mrs Jo Copsey, Sundial House, Bargate Lane, West Row, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 8PS**
Or scan and return by email to: **info@burytownpastors.org.uk**

If possible, please return this reference by Tues 5th May 2026. Thank you.

Tel: 07594 334215. www.burytownpastors.org.uk