

Town Pastors (Ipswich)

Following a very successful pilot in December 2005, the Ipswich Town Pastor Scheme has become well and truly established. To maintain this service we are continually needing to strengthen the team.

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 10pm 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, deescalate 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.

Expectations and Commitment

A team of six Town Pastors will be out on the streets at any one 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.

It is expected that Town Pastor teams will be out in the town centre on most Friday and Saturday nights. The teams will patrol from 10pm to around 4am on these nights. On average each Town Pastor is expected to be out one night a 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 joining a team and going out.

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.
- Alcohol and drug awareness training.
- Conflict management and personal safety.

This will be delivered in four or more training sessions. It is essential that would-be Town Pastors attend all these sessions.

How to apply

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Town Pastor. The first step towards this is to complete the accompanying application form and return it to:

Liz Beaton, 15 Dereham Avenue, Ipswich, IP3 0QB

References will be taken and you will need to attend a short interview. Following acceptance and training as a Town Pastor there is a probationary period to see if you are comfortable in the roll.

If you would like to find out more before applying please contact:

Rev. Paul Daltry

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