

Dear Steve and those it may concern at Eden,

Regarding your request for a reference for Jonathan Lancaster I am happy to oblige. I have known Jonathan since he joined Eden as a student in October 2016 and spent 2 years regularly meeting with him both formally as part of the Eden '1-to-1' system, and informally as good friends and brothers in Christ. Throughout that time, it has been a pleasure to see him both demonstrating and growing in Christlikeness, not to mention the positive impact he has had on my own walk with the Lord.

*1. Briefly whether you think Jonathan would be well suited to the role and why - taking into account (for example) his Christian life and faith, and his skills and gifts;*

Having been a church apprentice myself I am confident Jonathan would be well-suited to the role, and in fact encouraged Jonathan to apply for church apprenticeship. Jonathan is methodical, thoughtful, and well-organised; making him well suited to the practical service aspects of the role. In our 1-to-1s he consistently demonstrated a desire to seek God's wisdom in scripture and to apply this to his life. With this desire to grow I'm sure he would greatly benefit from the opportunities for training and practical ministry which the role would allow him. In the time I have known him, Jonathan has demonstrated a wonderful passion for the Lord both in the way he speaks and the way he acts, which would allow him to excel as a CA.

*2. Whether you are aware of any particular areas of church work for which Jonathan might be particularly gifted and / or areas where further development might be beneficial (this will help us shape the apprenticeship experience to give Jonathan the best opportunities to develop)*

Having been a student at Eden and heavily involved with the Cambridge Christian Union, Jonathan is of course well suited to joining the student ministry at Eden. He has shown a gift both for supporting his brothers and sisters and reaching the lost for Christ; taking opportunities to read the bible with a number of his non-believing friends in college. Beyond student work, Jonathan has spent the previous two summers in Indonesia and Jordan respectively; supporting local churches there, and in Jordan meeting refugees to gather information for his academic studies. With this experience he is well-placed to engage with many of the internationals who come to Eden. Jonathan has spoken in the past of cross-cultural mission being something he is considering for the future, and so would benefit in having further opportunities to explore and develop this. Having spent time with refugees in Jordan, I also suspect he would be able to join in reaching those who are on the fringes of the local community – perhaps joining Jan Marshall as a befriender in her work for CAP.

*3. Anything else you think might be useful to us as we consider Jonathan's application*

One reason I encouraged Jonathan to apply for church apprenticeship over other options such as 'relay' with UCCF or 'reach' with Friends International was the broader nature of the training provided by the role. Jonathan has been considering whether vocational ministry is an option for his future and my hope is that church apprenticeship at Eden would provide him a wonderful foundation to prepare for service wherever and in whatever form the Lord uses him.

There is much more that could be said about Jonathan but I hope this is sufficient to inform your decisions. If I can provide any more detail, please do ask. I pray the Lord will grant wisdom as you consider the applications of all who have applied to be CAs.

Kind Regards,

Nathanael Davison