

Notes of the Pilots Gathering 28th October 2025

1. Welcome and prayer

Alan opened the gathering with prayer.

Apologies had been received from Tom Hackett, Megan Tillbrook, Ruth White, Yvonne Campbell, Helen Laird, Leo Roberts, Barbara Cassidy, Judy Harris and Derek Goodyear.

Present were:

Alan Kendall (Chair)

Sam Richards from Church House

Sheila Burr from Steeple Bumpstead

Heather Pugsley from Chesham

Janice Smith and Bob Melton from Burnham

Gillian Jones from Tolworth

Sheliesa Stewart from Grange Park

2. Updates

Sam updated everyone on the state of staffing at Church House, where 20% savings had been made, largely through reductions in staff. Lorraine's position would not be filled, and admin had been reduced from 1.4 people to 0.5 people. In spite of this, the advent pack had been produced on time, the theme for next year of 'wise words' was well in to planning, with material due out in February. Go with Greta will be based on Jamaica in 2026, but exact timescales had not yet been agreed.

Alan gave an update on website changes and people changes.

3. URC Children Workers together conference

Sam also reminded everyone about the URC Childrens' Workers Together conference which will take place at Highgate House from 28th November to 30th November. Several people from Pilots were included, and people were reminded that Pilots is happy to pay for those who wish to attend from Pilots.

4. Grants

Grants had been made to Union Pilots and Red Lane Pilots to help with transport to the North West Pilots camp. Sheliesa at Grange Park had also mentioned a possible need for funds, but the grant request had not yet been submitted.

5. Updates from companies

Alan gave updates relating to Cornerstone who now had 12 children in their Junior Church using Pilots material. They had no children 12 months ago.

Shaliesa was pleased to report that they had met twice, on Saturdays towards the end of the month for three hours. This includes a meal and some free time. This was working well and numbers had grown from 10 at the first meeting to 14 at the second meeting, these new people being drawn from outside the church.

6. Any other business

Alan highlighted that the website is very under used, and that he hadn't been actively adding material as a result. He shared his original vision of people sharing material they had produced so that it could be used in other companies. Heather and Bob both shared that they had material that might be useful to other companies and that they would share it with Alan for adding to the website. Alan said he would then share this specifically with the Captains of existing companies in the hope use of the site would increase.

Sheila Burr uses a different log book to the one published on the website and promised to share it with Alan so he could add it to the resources section of the website. She did say that the 'print your own log book' approach available on the site was very useful though.

Bob asked about metal badges. Alan explained that we had produced some, and these could be ordered via a simple e-mail to Alan. There are no costs at the moment as we have funds available.

The meeting closed at 19.50, the date of the next meeting to be issued in due course