



#### Welcome to the HBC Newsletter!







We're so glad you're here. Whether you've been part of our church family for years or are just getting connected, this newsletter is a way to stay encouraged, informed, and inspired as we journey together as a family on mission. Inside, you'll find stories of God at work in our community, updates on upcoming events, and opportunities to grow and serve. We're excited for what God is doing in and through HBC this month!

To get in touch, please contact <u>08 8339 1243</u> or <u>office@hillsbaptist.com</u>

Jesus Glorified 

Lives Transformed 

Hope Revealed

## Pastors NOTE

If you've been around HBC for a while, you would know that at the start of every year we call the church to an intentional time of prayer and fasting. Given that next year is coming around all too quickly, I thought it might be worth taking a moment, before the craziness of Christmas hits, to remind you of why we do this, and to encourage you in this season of feasting, to be preparing your hearts for the season of fasting to come.

In Matthew 6:16a, Jesus, in the thick of his sermon on the mount says, "When you fast..." Did you catch that? 'When,' not 'if.' It's something I say every year, but it's worth saying again here – Jesus expects that his followers will fast.

In fact, the Didache (an ancient Christian document that provides insight into the belief, practice, and teaching of the early church) tells us that the early church fasted from sunrise to sunset twice a week, every week, on Wednesdays and Fridays (to mark the days of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion), as well as engaging in larger intentional seasons of fasting like the 40 days of Lent.

There are many reasons why the protestant west has, in large part, forsaken this ancient practice over the last 100 years, but the truth is, none of them are good. Fasting is, and always has been, an essential practice for the person hungering to grow in God. This is because as humans we are tripartite – body, soul, and spirit. Not separate and distinct parts, but one integrated whole where each part is intricately connected and inseparable from the other.

To grow in God in discipleship to Jesus then, must be about so much more than knowing things about Jesus, but about allowing the whole tripartite self to humbly come before a holy God in surrender.

Fasting is one way in which we do this. It's why in Psalm 35:13 David says, "I humbled myself with fasting." Fasting humbles the soul (mind and will) by denying the flesh, that our spirit might be attuned to the Spirit of God. And as we do it, not only does God grow us in awareness of our need for Him, but also our awareness of the needs of the world around us

Fasting heightens our awareness to the heartbeat of God.

So dear family, let's feast with great joy this Christmas, but let's also take a moment to contemplate how God might be calling us in the new year to humble our souls, through the denying of our flesh, that our spirits might become more attune to Him.

## Dave Shepherd Senior Pastor





#### Family Fun Celebrations

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21
9:30AM ALDGATE,
LOBETHAL, VERDUN
4PM MT BARKER
5PM ALDGATE

#### Christmas Eve Carols

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

8PM HBC COMBINED AT

VERDUN

#### Christmas Day Services

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25 9:30AM ALDGATE, LOBETHAL & VERDUN

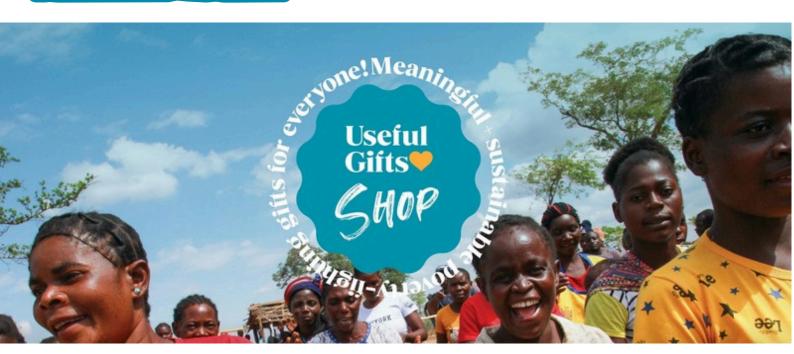


## Gift Ideas This Christmas





Useful Gifts available to purchase before & after HBC services in December







Sunday. 7 December HRISTMAS ON THE FARM

Bands







Market

Stalls

13TH DECEMBER 5-9PM

LIBRARY LAWN

## FREE FAMILY FUN FROM. 5PM

Sideshow Amusements

SAUSAGE SIZZLE, SLUSHIES, FAIRY FLOSS, PETTING ZOO, FACE PAINTING AND MORE

CAROLS FROM 6:30PM

















# **B**Ginternship

#### In 2025, our HBC Internship has been in full swing!

Eight interns have been a part of the program this year, exercising ministry giftings in preaching, youth ministry, creative ministry, pastoral care, prayer groups, and Bible study.

Throughout the year we have heard from our pastors and leaders across a range of areas, including Leadership, Conflict, Spiritual Gifts, and Emotional Intelligence.

We have also had the privilege of visiting other churches, including Sunday, Rostrevor Baptist, Clovercrest Baptist, and Coastlands. We've also heard from some exceptional visitors, including Kara Martin (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Ridley College) and Johan Roux (Principal – Tabor College). We're so thankful to our friends across the nation for their input into our internship program, especially Tabor College.

Please contact Luke Austin <u>luke.austin@hillsbaptist.com</u> if you'd like more information about joining the Internship in 2026.

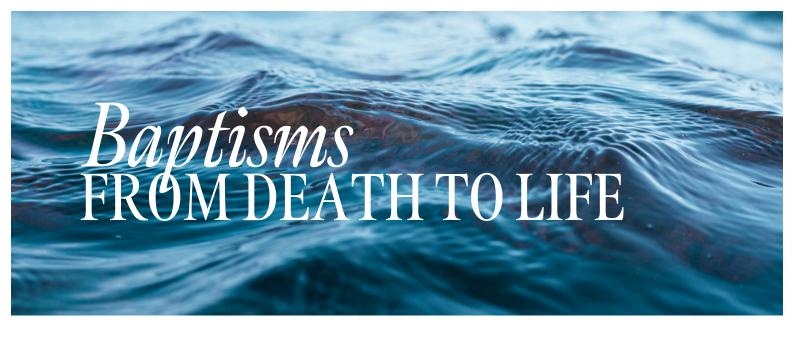












We've been rejoicing as God continues to move across our church family, with a number of baptisms taking place recently at our Lobethal and Verdun campuses, as well as at Hills Youth following the powerful Set Apart Camp in late September.

Each baptism has been a beautiful testimony of faith, transformation, and young and old alike choosing to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. It's been an incredible joy to witness these public declarations and celebrate together as a church community.















#### WE CELEBRATE WITH...

# Lobethal Sunday November 9 Matt Bauer Max Toholke

Youth
Friday November 21
Noah Mumford
Jesse Carpenter
Josie Engelbrecht
Demi Linke
Sophie Hirst
Reef Hugo
Anouk Smiles

# Verdun Sunday November 30 Nick Rippin Bailey Shepherd Ethan Bennett Yahnika Meyers









As our Children's Ministry wraps up for this year, I wanted to share on behalf of Emma, Hannah and I (Trent), and our amazing teams that support this important ministry every week.

We have been focusing this semester on 'Who Is God? Thinking about His attributes and His character with examples drawn from our Scriptures. You can see that we've covered a vast array of different dimensions of who our God is!









A significant testimony of how God is moving amongst our church is the number of kids attending our programs and the service. Kids min is growing and for the first time we have had more than 200 kids present in our programs across our campuses on a Sunday.

Thanks so much to all of our leaders in our teams who serve so lovingly and ultimately to God for building His Church to the next generation and beyond.











## house to house

House to House ran across both Aldgate and Verdun throughout November, bringing our church family together for Sunday lunches in one another's homes. It was a wonderful chance to enjoy genuine fellowship, share delicious food, and connect with people we might not normally spend time with. These simple meals created space for new friendships to grow and for our community to be strengthened in a really meaningful way.

## Missions



















4000 Donuts

\$2,033 Fundraised

364 Faith conversations

23 Team members from Hills
Baptist and connecting
churches

22 Hours on shift

5 Minor incidents

3 Days of Schoolies Festival 2025

Thank you all for your support,
Caitlin & Seb Townsend

From 21–23 November, we went down to Victor Harbor to serve at Schoolies Festival 2025.

For the first time, our Hills team moved from the Welcome Zone to inside the Festival Zone. This changed our setup quite a bit—but for the better! It meant we had less to set up and pack down, more relaxed starts, and earlier nights compared to previous years.

Seb and I are so impressed with the teamwork, effort, and joy of every one of our team members. Each person played an important role in encouraging and uplifting one another, especially when the more difficult hours came. They truly displayed the heart of Jesus to all the school leavers and other Green Team volunteers.

We were all so blessed by the amount of support our team received in the lead-up to and during the festival. To those who donated money and/or prayed for us, we want to give a massive THANK YOU! God has been so good to us!

## Thank you for your support of KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

After 40 hours of team formation, the KM37 team gathered at Murray Bridge Church of Christ to sort the 830 plus dozen biscuits that would be allowed into Mobilong prison.

Over 40 people walked around the tables making up mixed dozen bags that were sealed and sent in with prayer.

We pray for the 24 men who attended the course, that they would meet Jesus and have their lives transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Your prayers and baking demonstrate God's love in a powerful way. We thank God for the ministry that brings the light of the gospel into a dark place.











## Australia HOPE

Empowering poor and destitute communities with child sponsorship, education, vocational training, support for business start-ups, and emergency aid.

Read the latest from

Australia Hope International



Read the latest from the van Rossens



These are our community collection points for food donations at **The Hut Community Centre** and the **WestCare Centre**! Both of these wonderful organisations offer much needed support to our neighbours in the Hills and across Adelaide who are reaching out for support in terms of food, social support and financial assistance.

Please have a look at the <u>requested items</u> and if you can, make a habit of getting a couple of extra things at the supermarket each week to help provide for our communities.

If you have any questions about the collection points, to make a financial donation or to find out about other ways you can support these organisations, please get in touch with Jacqui Grace (Aldgate AM) or Ivy Blacker (Aldgate PM).



As we come to the end of another year there is so much to thank The Lord for what He has done and continues to do in the space of worship and prayer at HBC, particularly in our cross campus worship and prayer ministry; Dwelling Place.

Our weekly Dwelling Place Morning gatherings have felt like just the beginning of what can happen when individuals and families faithfully commit to regularly seeking Jesus and His presence as a community. We've seen people growing in prophetic and Levitical gifting, a beautiful deepening of relationship and connection, and more importantly, the establishment of what we believe is a space where for years to come, King Jesus will receive the continual praise and worship that He is so worthy of.

We are also excited to welcome in Christmas and close out the year with our Dwelling Place Mornings Advent Series. This is a time where we fix our eyes on Jesus, celebrate His birth and learn to wait on Him as we look with expectancy to His return and restoration of all things.

Our final Dwelling Place Morning gathering for the year is Thursday December 18th. We will be resuming our weekly morning meetings on January 8th 2026. Whether it's our first Thursday of the month evening gatherings, or at our weekly morning meetings, we would love you to be a part of the heartbeat of prayer and worship at HBC. These spaces are for all who want to see Jesus, so come as you are and we know He will meet you.

Adam Williams

Psalm 130:5-6

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning."

3

7am - 8am

THURSDAY WEEKLY



7pm - 9pm

FIRST THURSDAY
MONTHLY



Located at HBC ALDGATE

## Quiet Place CONTEMPLATIVE WALK



As part of Quiet Place Retreats where we take time away from busyness to listen to Gods voice, a contemplative walk from Sunset Rock Uniting to Mount Lofty and back took place on Saturday November 1st.

Stepping out of Stirling busyness to Cleland bush land had its own symbolism as we paused several times to be still and listen the 'still small voice' of God's Spirit.

These opportunities and day retreats are planned to continue in 2026.

## "Be still, and know that I am God;" Psalm 46:10









#### **DECEMBER**

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS	
Thursday 4	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses	
Sunday 7	Stirling Pageant	Aldgate	
Saturday 13	Stirling Carols	Aldgate	
Thursday 17	Kids Christmas Nursing Home Visit	Lobethal	
Sunday 21	Family Fun Christmas Services	All Campuses	
Sunday 21	Leading the Living Nativity at Lobethal Lights	Lobethal	
Wednesday 24	Christmas Eve Combined Service	All Campuses	
Thursday 25	Christmas Day Services	Aldgate, Lobethal, Verdun *no Aldgate PM or Mt Barker services	
Sunday 28	Testimony & Thanksgiving Service	All Campuses	



HBC Lobethal will be meeting for Sunday services at the Lobethal Lutheran Reception Centre (10 Church St) for all of December.

#### **JANUARY**

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Thursday 8	Dwelling Place Mornings Begin (Weekly)	All Campuses
Sunday 25	Start of 21 Day Fast	All Campuses
Wednesday 28	Wednesday Worship	All Campuses
Friday 30	Hills Youth Begins	All Campuses

#### **FEBRUARY**

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Sunday 1	Hills Kids Begins	All Campuses
Sunday 1	Elders Commissioning	All Campuses
Tuesday 3	Alpha Begins (9 Weeks)	All Campuses
Tuesday 3	Marriage Course Begins (7 Weeks)	All Campuses
Wednesday 4	The HBC Way	All Campuses
Thursday 5	Boomers	Aldagte
Thursday 5	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses
Sunday 8	Tony Watts Lobethal Campus Pastor Commissioning	Lobethal
Sunday 8	Special Members Meeting	All Campuses
Friday 13 - Sunday 15	Young Adults Camp	All Campuses
Wednesday 18	Kingdom Life 1 Begins (8 Weeks)	All Campuses
Thursday 19	HBC Internship Begins	All Campuses
Saturday 21	JNR YTH	All Campuses
Wednesday 25	Wednesday Worship	All Campuses



Alpha is a free, 10-week series of conversations exploring the Christian faith in a welcoming, nopressure environment.

If you're looking for a safe, judgment-free space to ask hard questions about faith, life and meaning, there's a place at Alpha for you.

Everyone is welcome!

The HBC Way is a one-night short course designed to help you get to know who we are as a church and how to find your place to belong in our family on mission.

We'll explore our vision, mission, values, and kingdom priorities, share how we're structured and connected, and unpack what it means to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

You'll also discover practical ways to connect, serve, and step into the life of our community through Home Groups, courses, and more.





This 16-week intentional discipleship course provides a space for meaningful connection, biblical teaching, and Holy Spirit-led transformation. The first 8 weeks explore the nature of faith and the overarching biblical narrative, while the second 8 weeks focus on living out that faith in today's world.

Each session begins with fellowship and worship, followed by a 30-minute teaching, followed by small group discussion in huddles of 3–4, led by a dedicated mentor. Together, you'll reflect, pray, and commit to living out what God is speaking with encouragement and accountability throughout the week.

## Finance UPDATE

The finance numbers are not updated since last newsletter as November books are not yet closed. We will provide more updates in the next newsletter.

We are pleased to confirm that the voting at the AGM re taking out a loan for the building project was overwhelmingly passed, so now we will proceed with the formal loan application and the associated activities required to secure all the funding needed. Thank you for your trust. The finance committee met recently and confirmed the key financial parameters for the loan (i.e., how much to borrow, how much to have as cash reserve).

We also confirmed in the AGM that our auditor has approved our books for the year. We will be using the same company, MTC Advisory, as our auditor next year.

#### Want To Give?

**Text:** Text 'Give to 0437 883 102

Online: Credit Card or EFT at hillsbaptist.com/give

Cash: Drop in the box at a Sunday service





## More from GOVERNING COUNCIL

#### **HBC AGM Report**

At our recent HBC AGM, we celebrated several significant moments in the life of our church. The membership affirmed Tony Watts as the new Lobethal Campus Pastor, and welcomed Paul Grace, Ben Jarvis, and Sebastien Wrangles into the role of Governing Elders. We're grateful for each of these leaders and their willingness to serve.

The church also approved the commitment of funds toward the construction of an Assembly Hall in partnership with Kings Baptist Grammar School in Mount Barker, an exciting step that will bless both our church community and the wider school community in the years ahead.

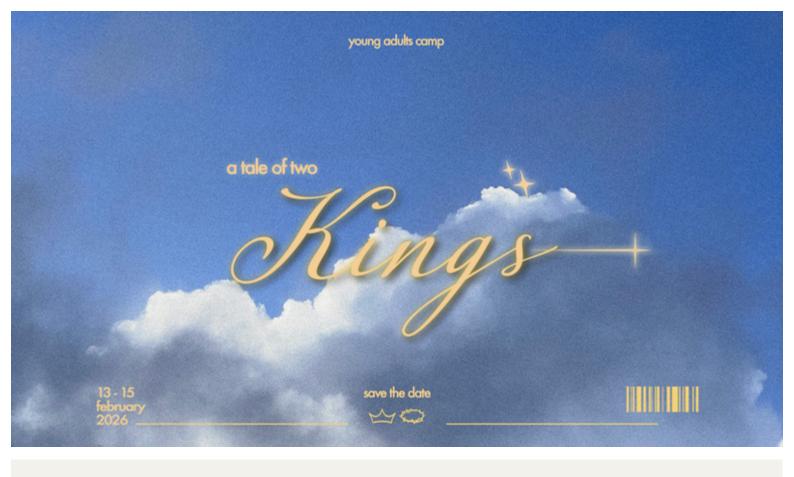
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along, contributed to the discussion, and cast their vote. Your presence and engagement are deeply appreciated.

#### Come Work With Us

Hills Baptist Church Aldgate is seeking to appoint an Associate Pastor (0.6 FTE) to join our team and help us live out our mission to make disciples by establishing Christ-centred communities that are growing in God, loving people, and boldly sharing the gospel.

We're looking for someone with a deep love for Jesus and wants to see people grow in their faith. This role will involve supporting our Aldgate Morning Campus through pastoral care (particularly among women), regular preaching and teaching, and leading ministries that help people grow in faith and reach out to our community. For more detail, see the position description linked below.

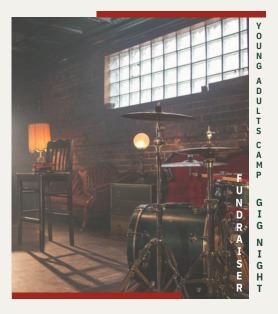
Find Out More Here



The Young Adults Gig Night in November was a fantastic evening filled with great music, delicious desserts, and plenty of energy and connection.

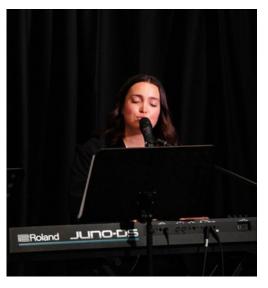
Our artists showcased incredible talent, creating a warm and vibrant atmosphere that brought people together from across the church.

Thanks to everyone who came along, invited friends, baked, served, and supported the event — together we raised **\$2,336** to help fund the upcoming Young Adults Camp!









## Family NEWS

Congratulations to Sarah Hennessey and Lewis Lloyde, who joyfully celebrated their wedding. May God richly bless their life together.

We're also delighted to celebrate the engagement of Rachel Farmer and Joshua Santostefano. Join us in praying for them as they prepare for marriage and this exciting new chapter ahead.

We celebrate with Verity and Ray Smith as they mark an incredible milestone — 55 years of marriage. We give thanks for God's faithfulness in their lives and pray for continued joy and blessing in the years ahead.

We rejoice with Jason and Anna on the arrival of their beautiful daughter, Paige Joy. May God's peace and favour be upon their family as they begin this new season together.

We remember with love Christopher Kelly, who passed away recently. Please keep his family and loved ones in your prayers as they walk through this season of grief.

A group of about 10 riders form Hills Baptist joined a group of 60 to ride the new section of the Amy Gillet bikeway, in tribute to Graham Phillips, who passed away recently. Graham was one of the founding members of Aldgate Baptist Church, and he had hoped to ride this bikeway before he died.

Did we miss you...?

If you'd like your news to be included in next month's edition, please let us know at office@hillsbaptist.com



# Are You FOLLOWING?



# Ready for a NEXT STEP?

- ☐ Join a home group
- □ Be baptised
- ☐ Sign up to serve
- Register for a discipleship course
- ☐ Become an HBC member

**Express Interest Here** 









