



Monthly NEWSLETTER

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 [08 8339 1243](tel:08-8339-1243) or office@hillsbaptist.com

Jesus Glorified ♦ Lives Transformed ♦ Hope Revealed

Pastors NOTE

Over the last couple of months, my personal devotions have been largely grounded in the first five books of the Bible. While it can be tough going, these infinitely rich books, which collectively are called the Torah, explore with profound insight what it means (and what it takes) for a fallen humanity to be in relationship with a Holy God. Concepts of righteousness, justice, sin, forgiveness, sacrifice, and judgement are all significant themes raised, as God creates, covenants, and continually calls His people back to Himself.

Another significant theme, which perhaps does not receive as much airtime as those mentioned above, is the theme of celebration. For it is in the Torah that God gives Israel the specific instructions about how they are to celebrate no less than seven different festivals! From Passover to Pentecost, and Trumpets to Tabernacles, God is eager for Israel not only to remember, but to celebrate all that He has done for them.

The question I've been pondering these past few months is, 'Why?' Why is celebration so important to God? There is much I could mention from my musings, but what I keep coming back to is this simple thought, "God is the Good Father, who gives good commands, for the good of His people."

Celebration of God's work and goodness keeps us from spiritual amnesia. It keeps us from falling into the Deuteronomy 8 trap of becoming a people who forget what the Lord has done. Celebration keeps us humble and dependent. Celebration is good for our souls.

This is one of the reasons why we are introducing this new idea of the HBC newsletter, because we want to celebrate what God is doing amongst us. Rather than getting a weekly email telling you what's coming up, we will now be sending a monthly newsletter celebrating all that God has done. Don't worry, important information will still be communicated via email when necessary, but our hope is that by giving more attention to celebration, we will build a greater sense of connection with one another and awe and wonder at what God is doing in our midst.

So, welcome to the newsletter! May it serve to remind us of the goodness of God and lead us to the same proclamation as that of the Psalmist, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness." Psalm 115:1

Dave Shepherd

Senior Pastor



MBC
gathered.
◆ *family on mission.*
#GATHERED2025





What You Had to Say ABOUT GATHERED

"It felt so special to have everyone together in the same room and so easily able to mingle and connect cross campus. I know many others expressed the same to me over the weekend. That they felt like they were part of something bigger... quite literally a big family on mission."

"Our kids, aged 8 and 9, absolutely loved the kids program, and my daughter brought her best friend from school who doesn't usually attend church and she loved it too."

"Thank you to everyone that volunteered on the day. Excellent effort everybody."

"It was all excellent. Loved hearing about the kingdom priorities. I thought that was an a valuable addition. Sermons were top-notch, worship also."

"It was great to meet people who attended other campuses. I even spoke to a girl at the deli counter in Foodland the next week as she asked if I was at Gathered because she had seen me there and she was excited to tell me she enjoyed the weekend."

"All being there together in the main sessions and knowing God's heart automatically created that sense of community and belonging to the Father's purpose."

"Brilliant electives, would have been great to be able to do more."

"Jason and Susan were great. Their messages were clear, practical and applicable to daily life."

"A long hot bath in Holy Spirit! What incredible worship teams and inspired words from our leaders."

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who made Gathered possible! From those who planned, served, and led, to everyone who came along and leaned in - we're so grateful for you. Most of all, we give thanks to God for His Presence and the way He moved among us. It was such a powerful and meaningful time together as one church family on mission.

Want to share **YOUR THOUGHTS?**

If you joined us for Gathered, we'd love to hear your thoughts and stories! It's so important that we take time to celebrate all God did, but also to learn how we can make next year even better.

And if you weren't able to make it, we'd love your input too. Sharing what made it tricky for you to come helps us understand how we can make Gathered more accessible and meaningful for everyone next time.

[Complete the Gathered Attendee Survey.](#)

[Couldn't Make It? Let Us Know Why.](#)



*Missed a session at Gathered or want to listen again?
All the sermons are now live on our podcast. Perfect for a
midweek replay or to share with a friend!*

MERCH

If you were at Gathered, you got the first look at our brand-new HBC merch line, designed by our amazing intern Mae Brown. Each design captures something of who we are as a church—our mission, our values, and the beautiful places God's planted us across the Adelaide Hills.

We've turned those designs into practical, everyday items that remind us of what we believe and that we belong to the body of Christ. You'll find bookmarks, wall art prints (A4 & A3), tea towels, and socks in the collection, with our 100% cotton, locally printed t-shirts coming back soon after selling out at Gathered!

Everything's available now through our online store, with easy pickup from the Aldgate Campus Office during the week. Head to our website to check it out and keep an eye on our socials for new drops!

[Shop Now](#)



YOUTH JNR♦YTH

Set Apart '25 (Hills Youth Camp) was incredible — we saw young people give their lives to Jesus and others step up wanting to be baptised!

Join us for our Youth Baptism Service on Friday, November 21, 7:30–9pm at Hills Baptist Aldgate. It's an open invite, and we'd love our whole church family to come and cheer on our youth as they take this amazing step of faith.

We also celebrated our Year 12s commissioning, sending them out with the full backing and love of their Hills Youth fam. God's got big things ahead for this crew!

JNR YTH is wrapping up for the year, but our Year 5–6s can look forward to some exciting things coming in 2026. Plus, Year 6s are officially invited to join Youth from November 14 onwards!

And a huge shoutout to our Veta Morphus class, who are graduating after an incredible year of growth, discipleship, and ministry experience with Ps. Ben Peters. Studying through Hills Christian Community School and the Adelaide Hills VET pathway, they've earned their Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology — we're so proud of you all!

[Watch the Camp Video Here](#)



Wednesday Worship

We continue to have an absolute blast at Wednesday Worship! This month, we thought revival was breaking out as John and Ron led us in worship from the keys and sax with the tune, "Oh When The Saints Go Marching In" still ringing in our ears. Pastor Dave preached a great word to us from Acts 2 about what kingdom unity looks like and the blessings it produces. And, as always, we had a wonderful time in fellowship over delicious food. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you next time, 10am at Mt Barker Church of Christ on the fourth Wednesday of the month.



Aldgate MEN

We had over 30 men from HBC Aldgate go lawn bowling on Friday night (Oct 24th) for our last Men's Ministry event of the year. It was a great time for all ages who enjoyed good food, fellowship and fun playing lawn bowls. There were clearly some expert bowlers and some whose competitive streak came out!



Family NEWS

We rejoice with Luke and Jasmine Austin on the birth of their son, Wilbur Daniel, who arrived safely in mid-September. We thank God for his safe arrival and pray for the Austin family as they adjust to life as a family of four.

We give thanks for the safe arrival of Milla Julie Ann Cheney, born in mid-September to Sophie and Marty. All are doing well. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this new season.

We rejoice with Nathan and Lauren Roennfeldt, and big sister Florence, on the birth of their son and brother, Ezra. We thank God for his safe arrival and pray for the Roennfeldt family in this special time.

We give thanks with Tony Watts (Lobethal Associate Pastor) and his family on the long-awaited purchase of their new home in Lobethal. We pray it will be a place of joy, rest, and hospitality.

We rejoice with Ben Peters (our Youth Pastor) and Rosie Higginson on their engagement, announced last month. We thank God for them and celebrate with them as they prepare for marriage.

We rejoice with Hamish McMath and Lizzie Hartley, who celebrated their engagement on the 13th of September. We thank God for this exciting new season in their lives.

We celebrate with Dylan McQuade and Nikki Behsmann, who were married on Saturday, 11 October, at Aldgate. We thank God for their union and pray His blessing over their life together.



Graham Phillips sadly passed away at the end of September, after a long battle with cancer. Graham, along with his wife Kay, was one of the founding members of Aldgate Baptist Church (which later became HBC Aldgate). Our love and prayers go out to his daughters, Fiona and Vanessa, and son Matt.

We remember with love Jenny Ellidge, who was called home to the Lord on September 11th. A faithful member of our congregation for many years, Jenny will be greatly missed. Please pray for her husband, Mark, and their children in this time of loss.

We rejoice with Ben Medlin, who was baptised at Aldgate AM in September. Just a few weeks later, we celebrated again with the Medlin family as their triplets — Matthew, Thomas, and Elsie — were dedicated. We thank God for His faithfulness in their lives.

We also celebrate with Matthew and Elijah, who were recently baptised at our Mount Barker campus. What a joy to witness their faith and commitment to following Jesus.

We look forward to celebrating with Matt at our Lobethal campus this Sunday, as he makes a public commitment of faith through baptism.

*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*





Alpha is a free, 10-week series of conversations exploring the Christian faith in a welcoming, no-pressure 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.

The
HBC
Way

K I N G
D O M
L I F E

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.

Launching Early 2026



Men on a **MISSION**

Witness the beauty and precision of our Mowing Men Heroes at our Bollen Road Property. Stephen Pollard and Adrian Hay “Ploughing the Field” on their trusty steeds. The boys commented, “It’s great therapy on a sunny day; it’s just doing around the edges that’s a bit tricky.”

Well done lads, HBC Heroes.



[Read the latest Building Update](#)



YOUNG ADULTS CAMP

FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13

HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ALDGATE

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

\$15 ENTRY, DONATIONS WELCOME

BYO PICNIC DINNER + SEATING

[RSVP HERE](#)

Sunday lunch in homes after morning church

house to house

ALDGATE

Nov 16

[RSVP](#)

VERDUN

Nov 23

[RSVP](#)



Reflections from Residency One A SHEPHERD'S JOURNEY BEGINS

By Nick van Ruth

After 29 hours of travel, I arrived at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts to begin my Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Theology. The first morning's run through the seminary grounds, bathed in red sunrise, stirred a deep sense of anticipation. I was here—not just to study, but to be formed.

The two-week residency was rich and intense. Each day began with worship, and I even led one morning with Dave Currie's old guitar—dusting off both strings and memories. We dove deep into the identity of a pastor: not just what we do, but who we are.

We explored the pastor as a person—experiencing life's joys and sorrows, only more so. Ministry intensifies everything. We are called to follow Jesus, to shepherd His people, and to be physicians of the soul. We are priests, theologians, and leaders—but above all, we are sheep before we are shepherds.

One of the most powerful sessions was on healing from leadership trauma. We shared stories—raw, honest, sacred. Though confidential, the themes were universal: loneliness, perfectionism, conflict, and the deep cost of ministry. In those sacred moments, I felt the Spirit's unity across cultures and denominations.

Throughout the residency, I kept returning to one question: What truly forms a leader? I'm convinced that spiritual formation is central. The church needs leaders who are not just competent, but Christlike. The most impactful leaders in my life weren't known for their vision or preaching, but for their character.

As I head home, I carry both challenge and hope. I've embraced my identity as both sheep and shepherd. I need the Good Shepherd's guidance, and I'm called to reflect His presence to the flock entrusted to me. I look forward to applying what I've learned at Hills Baptist and in the wider church community.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement. This journey is not mine alone—it's ours. May the gold I've received overflow into the life of our church, for God's glory.

[Find Out More Here](#)



Play GROUP

WEDNESDAY AM - LOBETHAL
THURSDAY AM - MT BARKER



Dwelling Place

PRAYER & WORSHIP

*'How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.'*

The heartbeat of these meetings has been captured beautifully in David's words from Psalm 84:1-2. Dwelling Place is a prayer & worship gathering, designed to create space to seek the Lord, worship Him wholeheartedly, and posture our hearts to hear His voice as a church family. Each time we meet, the Lord has been present with us in powerful, unifying, and wonderful ways. We are convinced that this weekly rhythm of ministering to Him and giving of the first fruits of our day is integral in seeing Jesus glorified, lives transformed, and hope revealed in our community and beyond.

So it's with excitement that we would love to invite you to join our Dwelling Place family. You can expect a space of peace, freedom, trust, faith, vulnerability and encouragement. But even more importantly, you can expect to meet with the person of Jesus.



7am - 8am

THURSDAY
WEEKLY

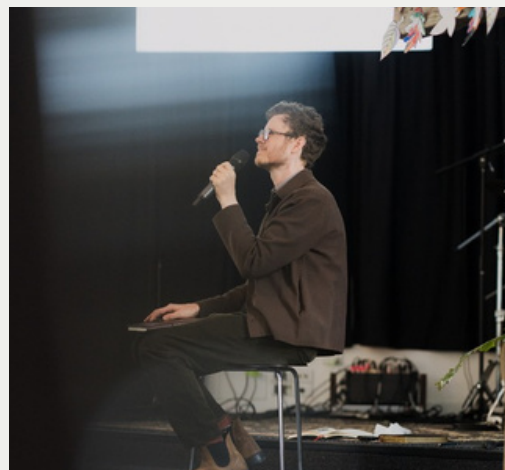


7pm - 9pm

FIRST THURSDAY
MONTHLY

HBC ALDGATE

202 Old Mount Barker Road, Aldgate



Upcoming Advent Series

Join us at Dwelling Place for the four weeks leading up to Christmas as we prepare for Jesus' arrival.

From 7am Thursday mornings from November 27.

HOPE PEACE LOVE JOY



Support Kairos Prison Ministry **MOBILONG KM37**

Kairos Prison Ministry KM37 will run from Tuesday 25 to Friday 28 November 2025 at Mobilong Prison, sharing God's love with inmates and staff.

You can get involved by praying during the 80-hour international prayer vigil, creating posters or placemats with messages of hope, giving financially, writing letters of encouragement, or baking biscuits and slices to bless participants.

[Click here](#) for everything you need to know about supporting this life-changing outreach.

Upcoming EVENTS

More info at
hillsbaptist.com/whats-on

NOVEMBER

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Thursday 6	Dwelling Place Evening	HBC
Thursday 13	Gig Night Young Adults Camp Fundraiser	HBC
Thursday 13	Bollen Road Information Evening	HBC
Sunday 16	House to House	Aldgate
Sunday 16	HBC Internship Info Session	HBC
Friday 21	Hills Youth Baptism Service	HBC
Sunday 23	House to House	Verdun
Wednesday 26	Wednesday Worship	HBC
Sunday 30	HBC AGM	HBC

DECEMBER

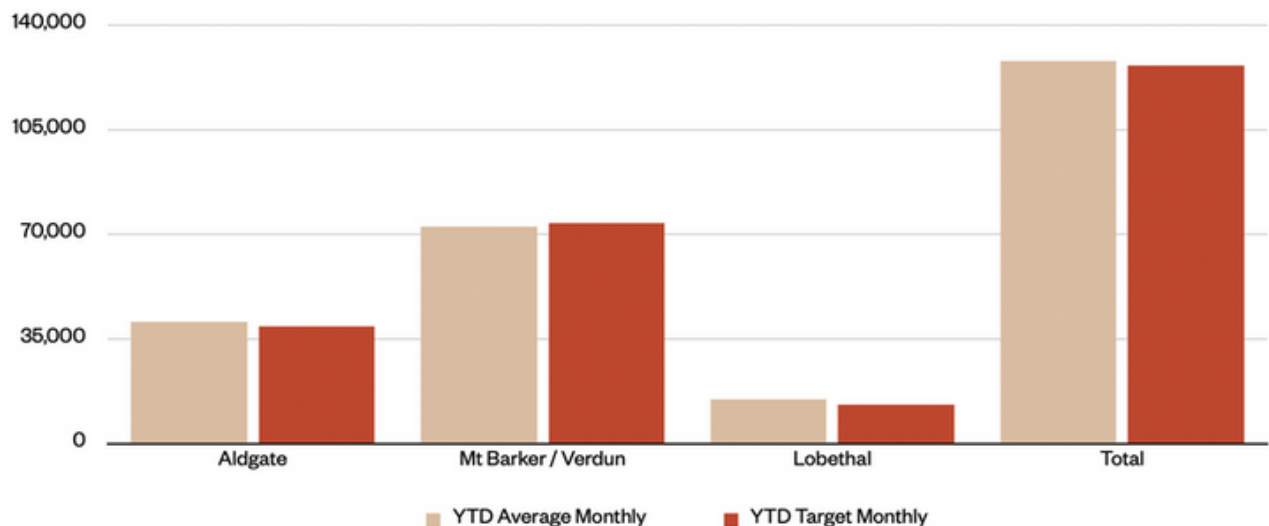
DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Thursday 4	Dwelling Place Evening	HBC
Sunday 20	Kids Christmas Services	Aldgate, Lobethal, Verdun
Wednesday 24	Christmas Eve Service	HBC
Thursday 25	Christmas Day Services	Aldgate, Lobethal, Verdun
Sunday 28	Testimony & Thanksgiving Service	Aldgate, Lobethal, Verdun

Finance UPDATE

Overall giving is 1.2% above budget for the financial year. Giving towards the new building project continues from the all-in campaign, having raised \$15k so far this financial year. Our overall expenses are 3.5% above budget YTD, but we expect this to even out over the course of the year. Thank you for your faithful giving.

Work is progressing on the building project with KBGS. We are currently working to finalise some technical details regarding congregational voting, trust funds, and an updated memorandum of understanding with KBGS. We will be communicating with members separately regarding these as and when finalised. We are excited to see this work progressing. More information is available on our website.

HBC Giving Actual vs Budget



Campus	YTD Average Monthly	YTD Target Monthly	vs Budget YTD
Aldgate	40,631	39,375	3.2%
Mt Barker / Verdun	72,555	73,938	-1.9%
Lobethal	14,755	13,125	12.4%
Total	127,941	126,438	1.2%

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 November 30

We invite all members to join us for our HBC AGM on Sunday, November 30, 12.15pm at HBC Verdun, following the morning service. At this meeting, we'll be voting on new Governing Elders and considering a financial commitment to the Bollen Road Build. Information regarding voting will be coming out shortly.

Property Information Evening November 13

To help answer any questions ahead of the AGM, we'll be holding a Bollen Road Property Information Evening on Wednesday, November 13, 7pm at HBC Mt Barker (Kings Baptist Grammar School, 41 Bollen Road, Mt Barker).

Come Work With Us

We're looking for a **Systems & Communications Manager** to join the HBC team! This role is all about helping our church function smoothly and communicate clearly - building efficiency into our systems while ensuring our message stays aligned with our mission.

If you're organised, creative, and passionate about supporting ministry through great systems and communication, we'd love to hear from you. Applications close midnight, Sunday November 9.

[Find Out More Here](#)

Come & See
CHRISTMAS

Kids Nativity Services

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20

9:30AM ALDGATE,
LOBETHAL & VERDUN

Christmas Eve Carols Service

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

9PM HBC COMBINED AT
VERDUN

Christmas Day Services

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25

9:30AM ALDGATE,
LOBETHAL & VERDUN

 **HBC**



Hills
Baptist
Church

