

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 or office@hillsbaptist.com

Jesus Glorified ◆ Lives Transformed ◆ Hope Revealed

Pastors NOTE

As I've been exploring the theme of Biblical consecration these past few months, I have been richly blessed not only by the Scriptures and our times of prayer and worship, but also by a variety of published works from Christian authors spanning the last hundred or so years. One of the works that has particularly captivated and challenged me is the little book, *The Pursuit of Holiness*, by Jerry Bridges (lent to me by a couple from within our church - thank you Michael and Dianne).

In it, Bridges wrestles with the question that if holiness (being consecrated unto God) is foundational to the Christian life, and is indeed the seed of our new nature in Christ (what he bought for us on the cross), then why is it that we often feel so defeated in our struggle against sin? Bridges raises several ideas in response to this, but the one that has truly caused me to pause and reflect is this one:

“Our first problem is that our attitude toward sin is more self-centred than God-centred. We are more concerned with our own “victory” over sin than we are about the fact that our sins grieve the heart of God.” (*The Pursuit of Holiness*, 1985, page 20)

What a profound thought.

A subtle nuance, yes, but a nuance that is well worth meditating on, because what he's saying is that the key to consecration is relationship.

In fact, it's a thought that has had me singing that old hymn, *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, over and over.

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

The more our focus is on how we need to conquer our own sin, the more we will struggle with it. The more our focus is on the glory and grace of our beautiful saviour Jesus, the more we will see sin for what it is, and the more our hearts will long to honour and love him above all things.

God is calling us to consecration, which means he is calling us to revelation. He wants to show us more of himself. He wants to open our eyes to see him more clearly, our hearts to love him more dearly, and our lives to walk with him more nearly.

Lord, let it be so.

Dave Shepherd
Senior Pastor





PRAYER FASTING

21 Days

Sunday 25 January - Saturday 14 February 2026

Over the past 21 days, our church family has journeyed together through a season of prayer and fasting and it has been a deeply formative time for Hills Baptist Church.

As we set aside time to seek God intentionally, we've been reminded again of our deep need for Him. Together, we've learned to slow down, to lean in, and to humble ourselves before our holy God. In fasting and prayer, many of us have experienced a renewed awareness of God's presence, a softening of hearts, and a growing hunger to hear His voice and respond in obedience.

Across the 21 days, we joined in prayer for a wide range of areas, including:

- A deeper love for Jesus and a renewed devotion to Him
- Greater unity and spiritual health within our church family
- Wisdom and discernment for our leaders and ministries
- Transformation in our homes, relationships, and workplaces
- God's heart for justice, peace, and compassion in our local community
- Boldness to live on mission and share the hope of Jesus with others

As we come to the end of these 21 days, we're encouraged not to see this as a finish line, but as a foundation, a reminder that prayer is not just something we do for a season, but a posture we carry into everyday life.

Reflections from Our Church Family

One of the gifts of this season has been hearing how God has been at work in the lives of our people. Below are a few reflections shared by members of our church family, capturing what this time of prayer and fasting has meant for them.

'Fasting is to go without, the time though was more, I was filled more than I felt without. Reminded more, related more and brought closer by having less.'

'Going forward, I sense God inviting me to use all promptings of desires for snacking during the day as prompts to teach my desires to desire Him.'

'This season made me aware of the suffering of others in the world who are lucky to eat one meal a day and the enormity of Christ's suffering to give me abundant life.'

'Godliness with contentment is great gain - 1 Tim 6:6. The Lord highlighted this verse and showed me that I've become very discontented. Now I'm learning to be content with all aspects of my life.'

We give thanks to God for what He has done among us during these 21 days, and we look forward with expectation to how He will continue to lead, form, and transform us as we seek Him together.

a tale of two

Kings

Over the weekend of the 13th to the 15th of February, over 100 young adults gathered for the **HBC Young Adults Camp: A Tale of Two Kings**. Through preaching, worship, small group times and electives we explored what it means to live in Jesus' kingdom, as His image bearers. Dave and Luke preached on the kingship of Jesus, and how we can live transformed lives in his kingdom.

Highlights included the worship times, which were led beautifully by Adam and Laura Williams and their team, the electives, which featured some great guests from HBC and beyond, and small group time, which was beautifully led by some of our amazing HBC people!

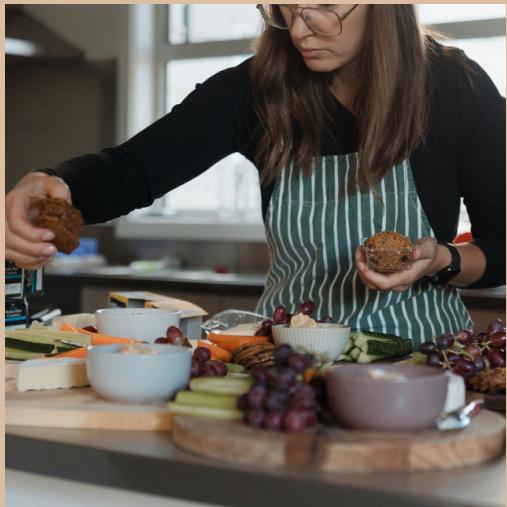
Over camp Jesus was worshipped, friendships were formed, and good times were had by all! Kate Jansen and her team did an amazing job leading the camp, so a massive thanks to them.

On a personal note, it was a great way to finish my time as the pastor of the Aldgate PM congregation, sharing my hopes for the community, and my appreciation for them and the past three years together. I have a great hope for our young adults, that they will be a generation that stands up for the gospel, that holds firm to the truth, and that reveals Jesus' love for the world by their love for one another.

Luke Austin



We had an incredible start to Kingdom Life this week, with just under 50 people stepping into this 16-week journey together. It was a joy to see our church family gathered around tables, hungry for meaningful connection, biblical depth, and Holy Spirit-led transformation.



KING DOM LIFE



There was a real sense of expectancy in the room as we began exploring what it means to live in God's Kingdom and we can't wait to see what He will continue to do in us and through us in the weeks ahead.



The
Marriage
Course



Bless Our
Missionaries

Mothers' Day Gift Stall
Sunday May 3



Bollen Road BUILDING PROJECT



Well Family, the day has arrived. Trucks & Diggers are rolling in, work quarters are being delivered, you can smell the diesel, lots of waving and pointing, hardhats a plenty, and there's dust in the air.

Exciting times friends, there's confidence of a quick build and Praise God for getting us to this point. Let's celebrate those who have come before us, those who are carrying the baton now and the generations ahead.

Why dont you go check it out at 41 Bollen Road, Mount Barker...!

Steve Edmonds

Business Manager



From the GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council met for the first time in 2026 on 22 January at the Aldgate Campus. It was a positive and forward-thinking meeting as we welcomed new members, confirmed office bearers for the year ahead, and set key dates for the year.

We were pleased to welcome Ben Jarvis and Seb Wrangles to the Governing Council for their first meeting. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and look forward to their contribution governance of the church.

Office bearers for 2026 were confirmed as follows:

- Chairperson: Angela Jolly
- Vice Chair: Nathan Sanders
- Treasurer: Paul Grace
- Secretary: Bek Dover



Ben Jarvis

Seb Wrangles

Bollen Road Update

The Governing Council received an update on the Bollen Road project and is pleased to share that construction has commenced.

A lease agreement with King's is currently being prepared, which will provide Hills Baptist Church with a legal holding over the building being constructed as part of this collaborative arrangement. This lease will be referenced within a broader Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will outline how the space will be shared and used.

We are encouraged by the progress being made. Please look out for updates on construction progress on the HBC website and in the newsletter.

Salem Baptist Church Adoption

The Governing Council affirmed that the adoption process with Salem Baptist Church (Gumeracha) has commenced, following a vote by their Church members to proceed.

Salem members have been joining our Lobethal campus, marking an encouraging step in this journey.

Conversations are underway with Salem leadership and Baptist Churches SA/NT to explore what this may look like practically and legally.

Eldership Retreat

Our Elders gathered at King's Baptist Grammar School on 30 January for an Eldership Retreat. It was a meaningful time of fellowship, prayer, and reflection, as the Elders spent time thinking together about 2026, guided by the church's strategic pillars.



New Members endorsed this month:

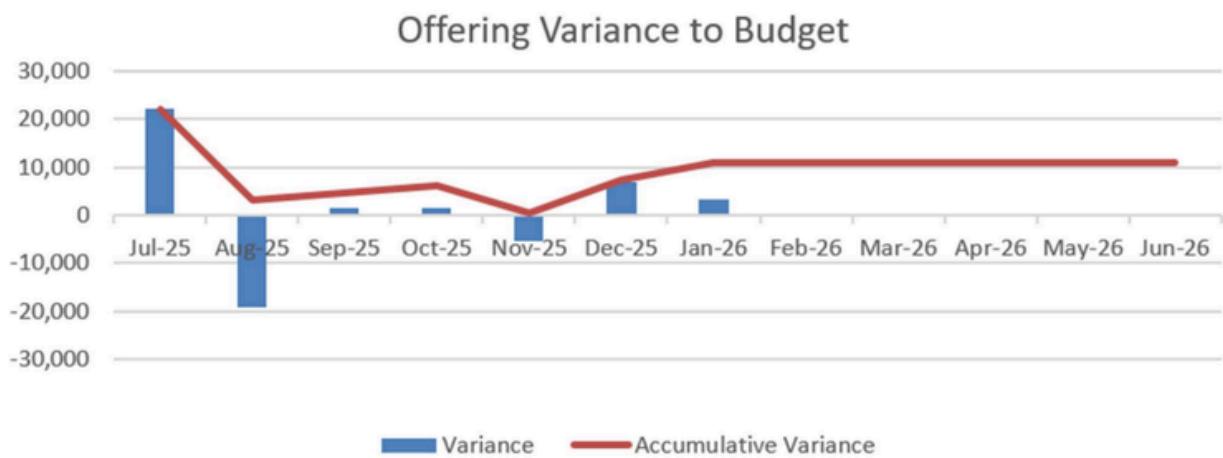
- Seb Townsend
- Denby Tamms
- Matt Tamms
- Kent Leach
- Helen Leach
- Mike Howells
- Diane Howells
- Jonty Schulz
- Theresa Tucker

We warmly welcome them into membership at HBC.

Finance UPDATE

Our giving and expenses continue to track in line with budget, which is a real encouragement. The recent vote regarding the use of the trust fund has been very positive, and this will be formally confirmed in our Sunday gatherings at the beginning of March. Thank you for your faithful giving and consistent spirit of generosity. We are in a season of significant financial investment as a church, and your commitment makes it possible for us to move forward with confidence and faith.

Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	274,665	-0.3%
Mt Barker / Verdun	517,905	0.1%
Lobethal	103,417	12.6%
Total	895,987	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

The HBC Way is a short printed resource, designed to help you get to know who we are as a church and how to find your place to belong.

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

[Download Here](#)

dwelling place

PRAYER & WORSHIP

This space is set apart to seek God, worship Him wholeheartedly, and tune our hearts to His voice. As we gather in His Presence, we trust that our faith will rise for all He desires to do in and through us.

FIRST THURSDAY EVENING,
MONTHLY, 7 - 9PM



THURSDAY MORNINGS,
WEEKLY, 7 - 8AM

AT HBC
ALDGATE

Meet ADAM WILLIAMS

Can you tell us a little about yourself and your family, and what led you into pastoral ministry?

I have been married to my beautiful wife Laura for almost 8 years and we currently live in the Adelaide CBD with our 4 year old Husky, Amos.

My pastoral ministry journey really began very simply and unglamorously. With my father having been a minister for around 50 years, I grew up with much talk of how I would inevitably yield and follow in his footsteps. I didn't think much of it and spent the first decade of my career teaching music, exploring videography, and eventually joining the HBC team as our Creative Lead.

Overtime, I discovered that our spaces of prayer and worship was what my heart really burned for. So as the need of leadership over a ever-growing Mt Barker / Verdun worship team emerged, I began conversation around what might be next. Through the faithfulness of God, a trusting team and a lot of grace, I begun serving as the Mt Barker / Verdun Worship Pastor in early 2025.

What has excited you most about your role?

Nothing makes me happier than seeing somebody released into their gifting and the infectious joy that overflows as they simply do what they were created to do. I'm so encouraged by witnessing others come fully alive in the unique and beautiful way in which God has created them to express their worship to Him.



What's one hope or dream you have as you look ahead to the future of the Church?

In Isaiah 56, the Lord shares His intention for His temple; to be “a house of prayer for all nations.” A hope I have for HBC and the global Church, is that the Lord would grow in us a desire to see this fulfilled and outworked in our day. When we wait on God in prayer, He speaks, He heals, He convicts, He adjusts thinking and attitudes, He gives inspiration, He gives heavenly perspective, and ultimately, He gets the glory and full attention of His bride, the Church.

For the seeker, even greater than a welcoming hospitality team or eloquent preaching, is being able to enter the presence of our Holy God, as we learn to trust Him to minister to their heart.

My deepest prayer for the Church is that we would be a people whose first love is Jesus and committed to hosting His presence well in all we do.

Outside of church life, what do you enjoy doing to rest, recharge, or have fun?

Spending time with Laura over good food or getting out in nature, hanging out with friends or playing with Amos. I also have a great passion for running as it's a hobby that helps me decompress, step away from technology for a moment and enjoy the peace of just being with the Lord.

How can we be praying for you?

I would love prayer for wisdom and insight into what the Lord has next for the places and spaces of worship and prayer at HBC. That He would show, not just to me, but our entire worship team, the steps He would have us take this year towards further establishing His house as a house of prayer.

I would also appreciate prayer for the fruits of His Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience and more to abound in my life, and for Him to be the one that sustains me as I lead.

Adam Williams

Worship Pastor (Mt Barker / Verdun)



Family NEWS

We're celebrating with Abbey and Martin Fijolek on the joyful arrival of their beautiful daughter, Sophie Jane, born on Friday, February 6. Please join us in thanking God for her safe arrival and praying His blessing over their family as they settle into life as a new family of three.

Warm congratulations to Jono and Shannon Camac (Aldgate PM) as they look forward with excitement and hope to welcoming a new little one later this year. Let's be praying for a healthy pregnancy and surrounding them with love and support in this season of anticipation.

A very happy 93rd birthday to Margaret Shepherd! We give thanks for the many years of faithfulness, wisdom, and gentle presence she has shared within our church family.

Celebrating with Andrew and Mel Buchiw on the birth of their fourth child, Samuel Obadiah. We rejoice with them and pray God's grace and strength as they embrace this new chapter with their growing family.

Rejoicing with Huon Morse, who publicly declared his faith through baptism at Verdun on Sunday, February 1. It was a joy to hear his testimony and to stand with him, his family, and our community as he took this meaningful step of obedience.

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*



What's On

More info at
hillsbaptist.com/whats-on

FEBRUARY

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Tuesday 3	Alpha Course Begins (9 Weeks)	All Campuses
Tuesday 3	Alpha Marriage Course Begins (7 Weeks)	All Campuses
Wednesday 18	Kingdom Life 1 Begins (8 Weeks)	All Campuses
Thursday 19	HBC Internship Begins	All Campuses
Saturday 21	JNR YTH - In House	All Campuses
Wednesday 25	Wednesday Worship	All Campuses

MARCH

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Sunday 1	Newcomers Lunch	Lobethal
Sunday 1	Stay and Play	Aldgate
Thursday 5 - 26	Uganda Missions Trip	All Campuses
Thursday 5	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses
Saturday 7	Inheritance Short Film Premiere	All Campuses
Sunday 15	The HBC Way Morning Tea	Verdun
Sunday 15	Women's Afternoon Tea	Aldgate
Saturday 21	JNR YTH - Warrawong	All Campuses
Saturday 21	Men's Burger Night	Aldgate
Wednesday 25	Wednesday Worship	All Campuses
Thursday 26	Mt Barker / Verdun Worship Team Night	Mt Barker / Verdun
Saturday 28	Quiet Place Day Retreat	All Campuses
Sunday 29	Teens Pool Day	Aldgate

EASTER AT HBC

save the dates

MAUNDY
THURSDAY

Apr 2, Evening



Passover Meal

GOOD
FRIDAY

Apr 3, Morning



Services

EASTER
SATURDAY

Apr 4, Morning



Dwelling Place

RESURRECTION
SUNDAY

Apr 5, All Day



Services

THE TABLE *lent series*

tearfund

Featuring Artwork by Pip Moseley

This Lent, we invite you to journey with us through a beautiful and contemplative series created by Tearfund, featuring the original artwork of our very own Pip Moseley. Titled “The Table,” this seven-week reflection series explores Jesus’ wide and generous invitation for all to take their place at His table.

Each piece of art and its accompanying reflection invites us to consider themes of hospitality, justice, community, and the hope of the great wedding banquet yet to come.

[Find Out More Here](#)



Quiet Place

ONE-DAY RETREAT

Saturday March 28th, 9am - 3:30pm
Norton Summit Baptist Church

[Find Out More Here](#)

*'Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at
me, your High God, above politics, above everything.'
Psalm 46:10 (The Message)*

Congratulations to **Tony Watts** (Lobethal Campus Pastor) and **Jonty Schulz** (Mt Barker Associate Pastor), who have both been commissioned into their respective roles in recent weeks. We give thanks for their willingness to serve and the unique gifts they bring to the HBC family.

Please join us in praying for them and their families, that God would strengthen, guide, and encourage them as they step into this new season.



Staff UPDATES

New Pastoral Appointments

We're excited to share some great news from the HBC staff team. At our recent Members Meeting, Luke Austin was voted in as Campus Pastor for Mt Barker / Verdun, with Kate Jansen joining him there as Pastoral Resident. We're also thrilled to welcome Denby Tamms as Associate Pastor at Aldgate AM, and Jesse Chamberlain, who will be caring for Young Adults at the Aldgate PM service.

Luke Austin



Mt Barker / Verdun
Campus Pastor

Denby Tamms



Aldgate
Associate Pastor

Jesse Chamberlain



Aldgate
Young Adults Pastor

Kate Jansen



Mt Barker / Verdun
Pastoral Resident

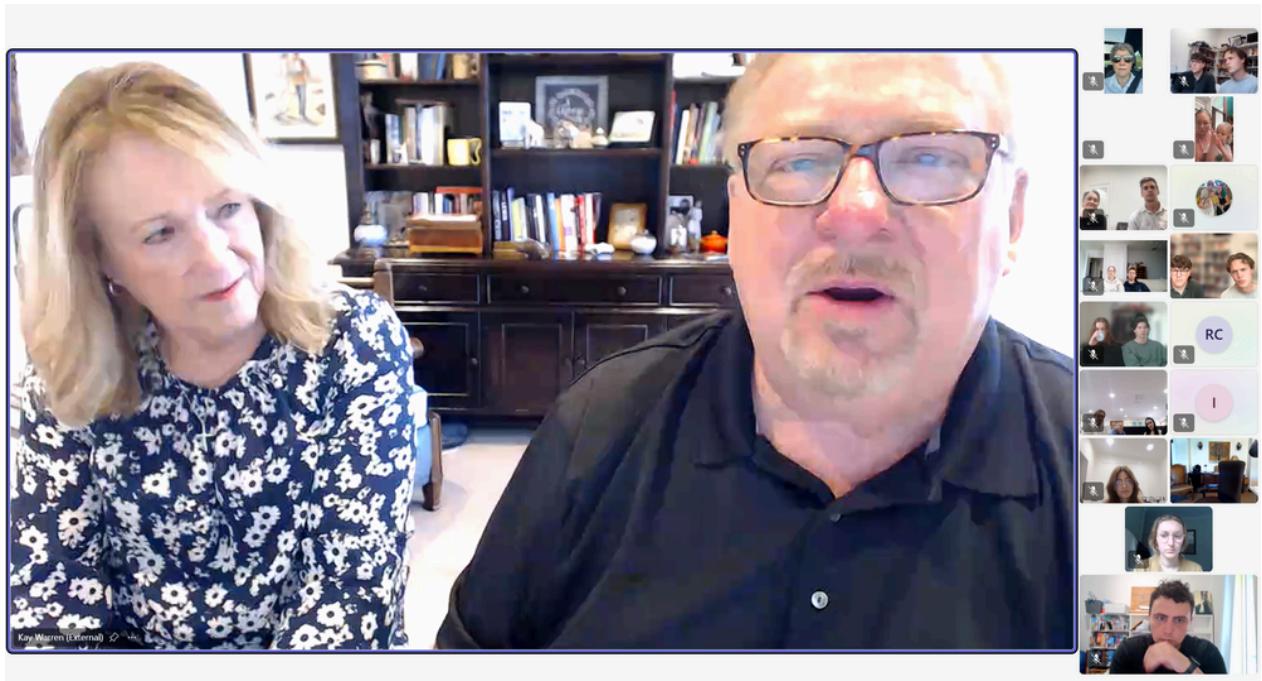
Staff Leave

Luke Austin will be on leave from Monday February 16 - Tuesday March 10

Come Work With Us

We are seeking a **Children's Ministry Worker** to lead, develop, and champion ministry to children and families within our **Lobethal campus**.

[Find Out More Here](#)



Learning with Kay & Rick Warren

Our staff team and some ministry leaders recently joined an online Q&A with **Kay and Rick Warren** from Saddleback Church. We're grateful for their generosity and the wisdom they shared, and for the encouragement and practical insights we'll carry into how we lead and serve.

Staff Retreat

Our staff retreat day was a really meaningful time together as we paused to pray, seek God's heart, and listen for His vision for the year ahead. Alongside that, we loved simply being together, sharing meals, laughs, and good conversation. And of course, a highlight of the day was the glorious cutting of Luke's mullet after hitting the YA Camp registration milestone...!





◆
Hills
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