



# 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](mailto:office@hillsbaptist.com)

# Pastors NOTE

As I reflect upon the Easter season that was, I am once again encouraged and filled with hope at the resurrection of Jesus. He is alive! There are many troubles in this world, but Jesus has overcome. Personally, I know that many of you are struggling. The pressures of work, family, and the ebbs and flows of the everyday journey of life can easily get us down. If you've got one eye on the news there is much to be worried about, afraid of, anxious about. If you're naturally a glass half-empty person, you're having a field day!

But amongst all of life's challenges, both in the home, the nation, and abroad, there is hope. Green gospel shoots are sprouting up in the unlikeliest of places, as they always have.

Jesus, when teaching about the His Kingdom, told His followers that "the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed" (Matthew 13:31). The smallest of seeds, that grows into the largest of garden plants. I don't know about you, but I imagined a mustard tree to be magnificent, perhaps something akin to our oak on Bollen Road. However, a mustard tree is little more than a glorified shrub. In the context of a garden, large. In a forest, small, seemingly insignificant. At only 2-6 metres tall it barely classifies as a tree.

But mustard trees are hardy. They grow on the sides of cliffs. They burst out of hard ground. They are nearly impossible to kill and, if left unobstructed, they will take over a backyard, a park, a countryside. So it is with the Kingdom of God. It grows up in unlikely places, hanging on by the roots of the gospel, always spreading. Why? Because the King of the Kingdom is alive!

Jesus grows His Kingdom through the small things, the hardy things. Be encouraged friends, He is still working. Amid hardship, struggle, pain, sorrow, anxiety Jesus is at work, building a resilient people, a Kingdom that will know no end. How do we overcome the troubles of this world? Through small, kingdom acts of goodness, kindness, compassion. By being generous. By showing genuine hospitality. Through praying for one another, inviting one another over, and by loving our neighbourhoods well.

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." So take heart, Jesus has overcome, He loves you, is for you, and is coming back.

## Luke Austin

Mt Barker/Verdun  
Campus Pastor



*Easter at HBC*

*Return*  
to the **GARDEN**

an invitation back to life

Easter at HBC was such a beautiful and meaningful celebration. Together, through our Return to the Garden theme, we journeyed from Passover to the cross, sat in the quiet of Saturday, and then rejoiced on Sunday as we remembered Jesus' resurrection. It was a powerful time of reflection, hope, and joy for many in our church family and wider community.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Easter at HBC so special: those who planned, led, welcomed, prayed, and served behind the scenes. Your generosity and commitment helped create a truly memorable Easter weekend.



*Passover*



*Good Friday*



*Resurrection Sunday*





# JNR YTH



JNR YTH is off to a great start for 2026!

We've already had our first two events for the year, and they were a blast. Our In House night at Aldgate and our trip to Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary brought together an awesome mix of around 80 Year 5/6ers, supported by over 20 incredible leaders.

Both events were packed with fun, friendship, worship, and opportunities to hear and share the gospel. It's been so encouraging to see the energy, enthusiasm, and faith growing in our JNR YTH crew already.

We're so excited for what's coming next, with two more events lined up later this term. We can't wait to see everyone there and keep building this amazing community.

- Ben, Trent, and the JNR YTH Team

[Register for May 16](#)  
[In-House Event](#)

[Register for June 20](#)  
[Bounce Event](#)

# Bless our Missionaries



## Mothers Day Gift & Produce Stall Sunday May 3, 2026

This fundraiser, which had its beginnings as a Fathers Day stall in 2021 at Verdun, was founded to provide a personal blessing to our supported missionaries.

### Best sellers from previous stalls include:

- Any baked goods (include ingredients label and date baked)
- Jams, chutneys, pickles
- Fresh flowers and fresh produce
- Gift-ready potted plants
- Mothers Day cards
- Jewellery (especially earrings)
- Gifts (handcrafted/novelty/homewares)

Our convenors would love to hear from you if you're able to contribute anything. Please suggest a selling price, and let them know what you'd like done with unsold items.

Non-perishable items can be brought to church on **April 26** or on the day.

### Contacts:

#### Verdun

- Chris Mahlburg (0431 476 269)
- Jenni Casey (0407 899 504)

#### Aldgate (AM & PM)

- Kathy Miller (0421 321 953)
- Brooke Derrington (0422 132 290)

#### Lobethal

- Grace Fatchen (0421 355 381)
- Eliza Fatchen (0456 623 143)

#### Mount Barker

- Eloise Schulz (0457 965 867)



Thinking about a gift  
for Mum?  
How about an HBC tea towel?

[Purchase Here](#)

# GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE?

ALPHA IS A  
**SAFE SPACE** TO TALK ABOUT  
**LIFE, FAITH AND MEANING.**

JOIN THE  
NEXT COURSE  
STARTING

**TUES MAY 5**  
**IN MT BARKER**

[Find Out More Here](#)

Alpha

HBC IS JOINING WITH BAPTIST CHURCHES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, SPENDING THE NEXT FIVE WEEKS LEANING INTO GOD'S VISION AND MISSION FOR HIS CHURCH.

*God's*  
VISION  
FOR YOUR LIFE

*New sermon series  
starting this Sunday!*



BAPTIST  
WORLD  
ALLIANCE

[Access BWA Resources Here](#)

*Aldgate's newly appointed  
Young Adults Pastor!*

# *Meet* JESSE CHAMBERLAIN

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

I grew up at the manse of Knightsbridge Baptist Church, with my two siblings (Isaac and Eden) and my parents. My dad was the Associate Pastor there for a long time, so I spent a lot of time walking around the church as a toddler and going on youth camps way too young! I grew up in Adelaide but spent most of my summers travelling around Australia with my family seeing my cousins (who live in Queensland) and my grandparents (who live in Melbourne). This birthed in me my great love of family that I still have today. I now live with my roommate Alex, who is a great support through ministry.

I started doing formal ministry when I was 15 years old, leading on camps and speaking at church. While I never thought this would lead to anything, God was birthing in me a love of serving and speaking. When I turned 18 I started feeling God call me to study a Bachelor of Ministry and I eventually went to Tabor to start. Again, I had no real intentions of becoming a pastor but God in his grace slowly lead me to ministry. I have now been a Pastor for 3 and a half years and am so excited to continue that journey with God!



## What excites you most about your role?

I have worked with young people my whole life and feel blessed to be able to speak about Jesus with the next generation. There is an amazing hunger for God from young generations, and I'm so excited to see what God is going to do through that. I'm also excited to join Hills and meet so many amazing people! My new Aldgate family has been awesome, and I can't wait to get to know them more as I aim to faithfully serve them and God in every season.

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

My hope is that everyone would come to know of God's amazing love for them. AND be able to live out of that love in their everyday lives. For so many of us we get distracted by things all over the place. My hope is that every person would be able to say at some stage in their lives, I am a loved child of God.

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

I'm a massive fan of sports! Mainly footy and golf. While it may seem counterintuitive, the way I love to rest and relax is on the golf course or watching my team Carlton (not a very relaxing team) play. Either that or just getting out into nature and enjoying God's creation. My friends and I also love building things and so there are always projects going on at home!

## How can we be praying for you?

I find myself constantly echoing Paul's prayer in Romans 15:13; 'may the God of hope fill you with all peace and joy as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' I also would love prayer that I would be strengthened and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God and the community at Aldgate PM faithfully in this next season of my life. While that is broad! I'll be praying that same prayer from Romans 15 each day for our church.

## Jesse Chamberlain

Young Adults Pastor (Aldgate PM)



# *Farewell* **ROBIN!**



Robin Carter has finished up his formal role as a pastor at HBC, and on the 29th of March we celebrated his 40+ years of ministry at HBC Aldgate. Robin was my supervisor as I went through accreditation, and during that time he came over to work with me at HBC Aldgate. His calm presence, humble curiosity and generous availability has been a profound blessing to me personally and many others over his many years of ministry.

It was a great pleasure to be part of Robin's retirement celebration. The church was packed, and I was struck not only by the number of people that clearly loved Robin to bits, but also the lasting legacy he had at Norton Summit, Baptist World Aid and here at Hills Baptist Church.

I feel Robin is the living, breathing embodiment of Eugene Peterson's definition of discipleship: A long obedience in the same direction. Well done Robin on many years of ministry, a lasting kingdom legacy and the influence of faith you have had on many pointing us to Jesus.

Nick van Ruth





## Morning Tea for Aldgate Primary School Staff

On Friday 13 March, the Mt Lofty School Chaplaincy Support Group provided morning tea for staff at Aldgate Primary School. We were encouraged to support the school as they welcome their first Pastoral Care Worker, Vicky Stevenson, who is settling in well. It was a lovely time to bless the staff and thank them for their dedication to the school community.



## Aldgate Womens Afternoon Tea

On Sunday 15 March, around 40 Aldgate women gathered at Helene and John Van Ruth's home for a relaxed afternoon tea. Women of all ages enjoyed great food, conversation, and time together in a beautiful setting. We are very thankful for their generous hospitality and a truly enjoyable afternoon.



# *From the* GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council met at the Aldgate Campus on Thursday 16 of April. It was a positive and productive meeting as we continued to focus on key priorities and the life of the church.

## *Campus Pastor Sharing*

The Governing Council was blessed to hear from our Campus Pastors, who shared updates on the life of their campuses, including encouragements, challenges, and prayer points.

It was great to hear how God is at work across our locations and to be reminded that we are one church across multiple locations.

## *Bollen Road Update*

The Governing Council received a further update on the Bollen Road project.

The lease agreement with King's is now nearing completion and is expected to come to Governing Council for review shortly. This agreement will provide Hills Baptist Church with a legal holding over the building being constructed as part of this collaborative arrangement and will sit alongside the broader Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), outlining how the space will be shared and used.

Strong progress is being made. Please look out for updates on construction progress on the HBC website and in the newsletter.

New Members  
endorsed this month:

- Dylan McQuade
- Nikki McQuade
- Stella McNicol
- Vanessa Chant
- Jesse Chamberlain
- Mae Brown
- Amy Biar

We warmly welcome  
them into membership  
at HBC.

# *Finance* REPORT

We're thankful to God for His ongoing provision for our church. After a quieter February, it was encouraging to see giving pick up again in March, and we really appreciate the faithfulness and generosity of so many in our church family. We are still a little under budget for the year overall, but we continue to trust God as we steward well and move forward together.

Work is also continuing on the loan for the building program, and we're pleased to be making steady progress there.

Looking ahead, we've begun putting together the budget for the next financial year. It's shaping up to be a year where we intentionally bring our plans before the Lord, trusting Him for what lies ahead as we partner with King's Baptist School on the Assembly Hall project. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support as we take these next steps together.

Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	347,199	-2.0%
Mt Barker / Verdun	651,134	-2.1%
Lobethal	134,463	13.8%
Total	1,132,796	-0.5%

## *Want To Give?*

Text: Text 'Give to 0437 883 102

Online: Credit Card or EFT at [hillsbaptist.com/give](https://hillsbaptist.com/give)

Cash: Drop in the box at a Sunday service

# What's On

More info at  
[hillsbaptist.com/whats-on](https://hillsbaptist.com/whats-on)

## APRIL

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Sunday 26	New Sermon Series Begins "God's Vision For Your Life" (Five Weeks)	All Campuses
Sunday 26	Worship & Prayer Night	Lobethal
Thursday 30	Internship Term 2 Begins	All Campuses

## MAY

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Saturday 2	Young Adults Salsa Social	All Campuses
Sunday 3	Bless Our Missionaries Mothers Day Gift & Produce Stall	All Campuses
Tuesday 5	Alpha Mt Barker Begins (Nine Weeks)	All Campuses
Wednesday 6	Kingdom Life Two Begins (Eight Weeks)	All Campuses
Thursday 7	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses
Thursday 7	Pastoral Care Supper	Lobethal
Friday 8	Hills Youth Term 2 Kick Off	All Campuses
Saturday 9	Quiet Place Contemplative Walk	All Campuses
Sunday 10	Mothers Day Celebration Services	All Campuses
Saturday 16	JNR YTH - In House	All Campuses
Sunday 17	Verdun Family Meeting	Verdun
Sunday 31	Womens Event	Aldgate

gathered.

9-11 OCT  
2026

# *Family* NEWS

We're thrilled to share that Emma and Kristian LeGallou (Aldgate) are expecting their second child. Such joyful news for their growing family!

We grieve alongside Adam Williams (Verdun/Mt Barker) following the passing of his father at the end of March, holding Adam, Laura and their family in our prayers.

What a joy to celebrate Matt Martin and Shane Docking, who publicly declared their faith through baptism at Verdun on Sunday, April 12.

Congratulations to Aaron Morris and India Lloyd (Verdun), who were married on April 11. May God richly bless their life together.

A huge celebration for Mike and Di Howells (Lobethal), marking 63 years of marriage and 50 years in Australia on March 23, having moved from Wales on their 13th wedding anniversary no less!

We're celebrating with Grace and Dan Anderson (Aldgate), who welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Laura Sage, on March 25. A precious little sister for Edie.

We extend our love and prayers to Matt Tamms (Aldgate) following the passing of his mum on April 7, holding him and his family close during this time.

*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](mailto:office@hillsbaptist.com)*



◆  
Hills  
Baptist  
Church

