



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

From PASTOR DAVE



Hello beloved church family!

It turns out that two and half months go by pretty quickly! So here I am, back on deck, feeling rested and excited for all that God has for us this year.

I've spent the last couple of months enjoying some long service leave, taking the opportunity to pause, reflect, learn some new things, and force my mind to rest from the daily demands of ministry.

From a practical standpoint, we didn't go away or undertake any great journey, we simply did life in our new home as I learnt all about the importance of retaining walls, drainage, stormwater runoff and just how hard it is to work with Mt Barker clay!

From a spiritual standpoint though, I think it's fair to say that the Lord did take me (and still has me) on quite a journey.

Right around the beginning of my leave, my mum had a word from Jeremiah that she believed was for me in this season. **"This is what the Lord says: Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."** (Jer 6:16)

When she first told me that, I said, "Thanks mum, I'll think and pray on that," but if I'm honest, I didn't think much more about it until about a week later when I was waiting in midday traffic (at the current mess that is the Mount Barker freeway interchange) getting more and more agitated. It was here that a disrupting thought came to mind with a suddenness that I've come to recognize as the voice of Holy Spirit saying, "I know it's uncomfortable, but the work is necessary."

Then came mum's voice again, "Stand at the crossroads and look... ask for the ancient paths... walk in it." So I said okay, and the journey began. Much of the journey was for me and the Lord, not for anyone else, so I won't share much, but I will share this reflection from my time off.



Human wisdom says that the best road is the fast road. It says that the best road is the finished highway that bypasses the crossroad, not the one that stops at it. Human wisdom says that the best path is the modern path. It says that the best path that is the clean, predictable, and well signed one, not the ancient one that is dangerous, unpredictable, and uncertain of where it leads. Yet, it's the latter, not the former that actually leads to rest.

As I ponder this I can't help but think of that Robert Frost poem I learnt all those years ago back in Year 12 English:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I marked the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

I want my life to be a life that chooses the road less travelled. I want our church to be a church that chooses the road less travelled. Lord help me choose the cross, not life's comforts. Lord help me choose the ancient path. The dangerous path. The uncertain path. In the sure and certain hope, that it's down this path, through the cross, that true glory is found."

Bless you HBC! I've missed you all and can't wait to see you again in person very soon. Much love,

Dave Shepherd
Senior Pastor

One body
One family
One church

gathered.



Friday October 9 - Sunday October 11

A time to refocus on God,
reconnect with one
another and rediscover the
mission He's called us to.

Throughout the weekend, we'll share in:

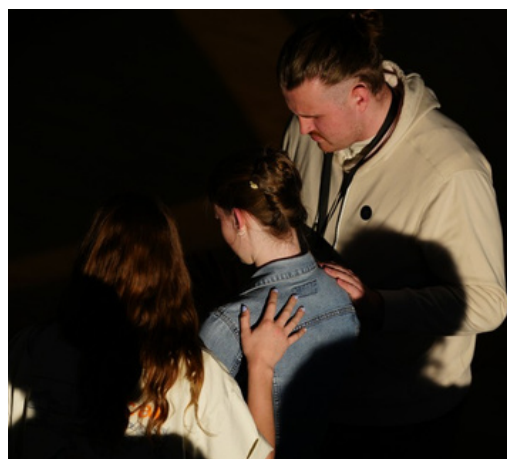
- ◆ extended times of worship,
- ◆ teaching from guest speakers,
- ◆ prayer gatherings,
- ◆ topical elective sessions,
- ◆ fellowship with others,
- ◆ great food and coffee,
- ◆ an engaging Kids Program,
- ◆ HBO's Got Talent,
- ◆ and more!

HILLSBAPTIST.COM/GATHERED

[Find Out More!](https://hillsbaptist.com/gathered)



Remember
how good
last year
was ?!





Retreat Weekend

Last weekend, our interns headed to Mylor Adventure Camp for a retreat, taking time away from the busyness of everyday life to seek God, grow together, and listen for His voice.

Throughout the weekend, we were blessed by guest speakers Ben and Trina Whittaker from Coastlands who shared insightful teaching on hearing God's voice and operating in prophetic ministry. Their session encouraged and challenged our interns as they continue to develop their faith and ministry gifts.

On Friday evening, we enjoyed a special Dwelling Place worship session led by Adam and Laura Williams, alongside Luke Austin. It was a meaningful time of worship, prayer, and encouragement in the Lord.

Of course, no retreat is complete without great food! A variety of delicious meals and sweet treats were lovingly prepared by members of the internship cohort. There was also time for fun and relaxation, with Sascha even managing to fit in a spot of fishing.

We are incredibly grateful for this multi-generational group of interns who are seeking to follow Jesus faithfully in their different stages of life and contexts. Thank you for praying for and investing in these amazing people as they continue to grow as disciples and leaders in our church community.



OPEN MIC NIGHT

Join us for a welcoming community Open Mic Night at the Lobethal Centennial Hall on Saturday, 19 September, where we can come together to share music, connect with others, and enjoy a relaxed evening in a warm, family-friendly atmosphere.

Whether you'd like to perform, listen, or simply enjoy the company of friends and neighbours, everyone is welcome.

Details

- Saturday September 19th, 6-9pm
- Lobethal Centennial Hall (36 Main Street, Lobethal)
- \$10 per family unit
- Tea and coffee van available, BYO snacks & drinks

GET TICKETS
HERE

Interested in Performing?

Performers are welcome to register to share up to three songs. Solo acts, duets, and small groups are encouraged, and original music is welcome.

Please contact Kylie Heritage (HBC Lobethal) on 0401 529 822.





Alpha at Lobethal has been a huge blessing! 26 people and 3 very diverse tables. Some massively philosophical discussions and God opening the eyes of the skeptics. Beautiful relationships being formed. So thankful for all the amazing meals.

Please pray especially for the Holy Spirit sessions on the retreat day and for the new believers coming along they would be assured in their faith, the seekers would see and receive the Jesus that is seeking them.

TONY WATTS
LOBETHAL CAMPUS PASTOR



Prayer at HBC

Prayer is at the heart of a life with Jesus. As we slow down to be with God, we are formed by His Presence, shaped into the likeness of Christ, and invited to join in what He is doing in the world. Gathering together in prayer is a powerful gift, encouraging our faith, deepening our unity, and reminding us that we seek God not only as individuals, but as a community.

We invite you to join us at one of the prayer gatherings below as we make space to listen, worship, and encounter God together.

[More On Prayer Here](#)

Intercessory Prayer

Monday PM	Aldgate
Tuesday AM	Lobethal
Wednesday PM	Verdun

Pre Sunday Service

8:15am	Verdun
8:30am	Lobethal
8:45am	Aldgate

Dwelling PLACE

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Thursday mornings
Weekly

Thursday evenings
Monthly

Quiet Place

WALKS & RETREATS

Contemplative Walk
Sep 26

Two-Day Retreat
Oct 30 - Nov 1



Global Week of 24-7 Prayer

6 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Prayer Room Open

Monday - Friday daily @ Aldgate

Dwelling Place

Monday - Friday mornings @ Aldgate

Prayer Meetings

- Monday evenings @ Aldgate
- Tuesday mornings @ Lobethal
- Wednesday mornings (Men) @ Aldgate
- Wednesday mornings (Women) @ Aldgate
- Wednesday afternoons @ Nairne/Littlehampton
- Wednesday afternoons @ Aldgate/Online
- Before Sunday Services at all campuses

Unite with the global Church as we declare that
Jesus is Lord over all of the earth.

Quiet Place

TWO DAY RETREAT

Friday October 30 - Sunday November 1
Sevenhill Retreat Centre, Clare Valley

This two-day retreat is an opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and spend intentional time in God's presence. Through periods of silence, solitude, reflection, and shared community, you will be encouraged to listen to your Heavenly Father, deepen your relationship with Him, and experience afresh the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

[Sign Up Here](#)

Follow Me

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN



We are blessed with incredible Bible teachers here at HBC. If you've missed a week, or would like to revisit a message, be sure to check out some of the recent sermons from our Follow Me series on our website or podcast.



On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Jonty Schulz (Lobethal)

[Listen](#)



Without A Safety Net

Denby Tamms (Aldgate)

[Listen](#)



On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Luke Austin (Verdun)

[Listen](#)



Without A Safety Net

Nick van Ruth (Verdun)

[Listen](#)



On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Jesse Chamberlain (Aldgate)

[Listen](#)



A Dinner From Hell That's All About Heaven

Tony Watts (Lobethal)

[Listen](#)

Throughout this series, we're sharing stories of how our people are partnering with God in proclaiming the good news and liberating the oppressed. If you'd like to share, please fill in the short form linked below. We'd love to hear from you for the purpose of encouraging the wider body!

[Follow Me Response Form](#)

SUPPORT OUR HILLS YOUTH CAMP
SET APART 2026

THE COURAGEOUS GENERATION

SEPTEMBER 26 - 29, MYLOR

WE'RE CALLING ON OUR HBC FAMILY TO
HELP MAKE CAMP AN AMAZING
EXPERIENCE FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

CAN YOU SUPPORT?

Sign up to pray
Help in the kitchen
Help set up or pack down
Provide financial assistance

[Sign Up To Help Here](#)

Commissioning our new PASTORAL ELDERS

During our recent gatherings, we commissioned seven new Pastoral Elders across HBC. We thank God for their willingness to serve and we encourage our church family to uphold them in prayer as they begin this new season of leadership and ministry.

New Pastoral Elders

- Curtis Richards
- Kate Miegel
- Caitlin Townsend
- Caleb Farrell
- Andrew Szemis
- Josh Smith
- Ian Carter



From the GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council met in late August, with a wide variety of HBC church life matters being discussed.

Campus Pastor Reports:

Campus pastors joined GC this week to discuss progress at all HBC campuses. It was a time of sharing the blessings and needs for each campus, and a time of shared prayer. Please pray for our campus pastors who continually strive to live out the Kingdom in their lives and respective campuses.

Policy Development:

Ongoing policy discussion continues to be a theme across a number of key areas. An updated Governance Policy was approved, and discussions continue around an updated livestreaming and media policy for HBC. Please pray for discernment and wisdom as HBC leadership works through settling these policy positions well for our members.

Pastor Accreditation Processes:

GC and the HBC staff team are updating processes to better track and support pastor accreditation across HBC. Please thank God for all of our HBC staff who are undertaking accreditation processes, and that we will support them well as a church in this.

Welcome Back Dave, and Thanks Nick!

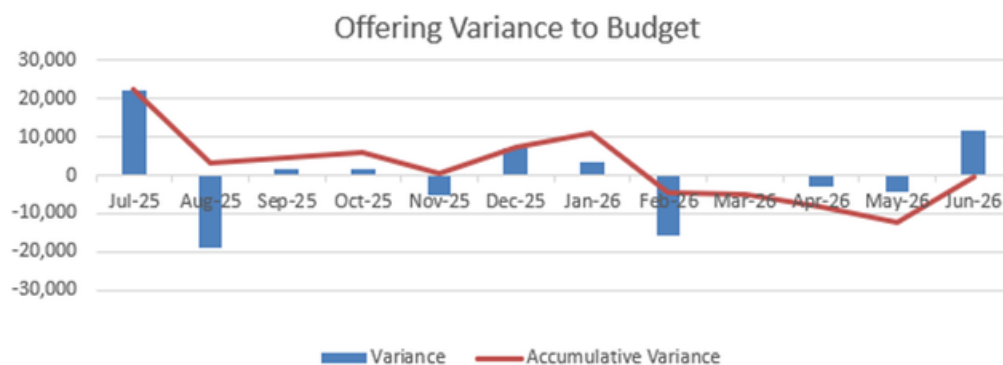
GC would also like to note Dave's return to the Senior Pastor role after long-service leave. We would also like to thank Nick van Ruth for serving as acting Senior Pastor over this time, and balancing this role with his commitments as Aldgate's campus pastor. We would also like to thank Emily, Josh, and Noah for supporting him serving as a family through this time.

Finance Report

We finished the 2026 financial year right on budget and thank God for His faithful provision throughout the year. The graph provides a summary of our offering income for the year.

We have started the new financial year with an offering target 5% higher than last year, reflecting the steady growth of our church family. July offerings were slightly below target, but as giving naturally fluctuates month to month, there is no cause for concern at this stage.

The building project is now moving into a significant phase, with major payments commencing soon. Funds from previous campaigns, particularly All In, are now being used, and our loan application has been approved, enabling us to move forward with confidence. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and continues to give generously. The project remains on track and within the shared \$8 million budget with Kings Baptist Grammar.



Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	40,587	0.2%
Mt Barker / Verdun	71,283	-5.0%
Lobethal	15,875	-8.1%
Total	127,745	-3.8%

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

What's On

More info at
hillsbaptist.com/whats-on

AUGUST

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Saturday 22	Journey Into Mission Event	All Campuses
Saturday 22	Teens Bowling Night	Aldgate
Wednesday 26	Wednesday Worship	Mt Barker
Saturday 29	Sock Knitting Workshop	Aldgate
Saturday 29	JNR YTH: Woodhouse	All Campuses

SEPTEMBER

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Thursday 3	Boomers	Aldgate
Thursday 3	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses
Saturday 5	Girls Night Out: Party Games Edition	Aldgate
Sun 6 - Sun 13	Global Week of 24-7 Prayer	All Campuses
Mon 7 - Fri 11	Daily Dwelling Place Mornings	All Campuses
Saturday 12	Paired Young Adults Singles Night	All Campuses
Sunday 13	House to House	Aldgate
Saturday 19	Open Mic Night	All Campuses
Wednesday 23	Wednesday Worship	Mt Barker
Saturday 26	Quiet Place Contemplative Walk	All Campuses
Sat 26 - Tues 29	Set Apart Hills Youth Camp	All Campuses

gathered.

Friday October 9 -
Sunday October 11

HBC will be joining the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). On Sunday September 20, we will take time after our services to fill out the survey. Why? To join hundreds of thousands of voices to contribute to the most comprehensive view of church life in the world. This survey comes around every 5 years and gives the church, our denomination and the wider church insights into what God is doing in and through the church.

The NCLS gives our church a valuable opportunity to listen to the voices of each of our campuses, understand our strengths and challenges, and make informed decisions for the future. It provides a trusted snapshot of our church's health, vitality, wellbeing, and leadership, and helps us identify areas for growth. By participating, we can see how we compare with similar churches, contribute to the wider story of the Australian church, and gain practical insights that support our mission, discipleship, and leadership development for years to come.

**YOU CAN HEAR ALL VOICES
& TAKE TIME TO LISTEN**



**MAKE INFORMED CHOICES
IN MINISTRY & MISSION**



**FIND OUT ABOUT
ATTENDERS' WELLBEING**



**UNDERSTAND THE
HOPES OF ATTENDERS**



**TAKE STOCK OF YOUR
CHURCH'S HEALTH**



**IDENTIFY YOUR STRENGTHS
& USE THEM TO GROW**



**SEE HOW YOU COMPARE
TO OTHER CHURCHES**



**SUSTAIN & SUPPORT
LEADERSHIP PRACTICES**



**ADD TO THE PROFILE OF
YOUR DENOMINATION**



**INFORM WIDER
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY**





Hills
Baptist
Church

