

A photograph of three people behind a coffee bar. A man in a white shirt is on the left, a woman in a grey cardigan is in the middle, and another woman in a striped shirt is on the right. They are behind a counter with a coffee machine, a blender, and several bottles of milk. The text 'Monthly NEWSLETTER' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

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 NICK



Hey Church!

Psalm 105:1

*Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.*

There is lots going on and lots to celebrate across our church, so I wanted to take the time to highlight some things that God is doing across our campuses and key ministries.

At Verdun we have been trialling a House system - splitting up the whole congregation into 6 different houses, each with the responsibility of running that Sunday service - clad in our house colour! This means everyone is on the roster, and through this everyone is connected. We've been running this for a few weeks now, and people have been connecting with others like never before. This has been a great step in making our biggest congregation feel smaller for deeper community - so well done everyone involved.

At Mount Barker 4pm Jonty has been settling in as pastor, and we've been enjoying quizzes, games, community meals and an increased connection with Kings Baptist Grammar School.

At Aldgate, we've loved getting to know our two new associate pastors Denby and Jesse and growing as a community. We've enjoyed revamping men's and women's ministry, we will be hosting the Marriage Course soon and behind the scenes we've been looking at improving our communication around Home Groups to better connect new people into deep community.

At Lobethal we are thrilled to see Hannah stepping up into a new Pastoral Care role, deepening our care and discipleship of Lobethal families and wider community. We are thrilled to welcome Kim Blesing into the Kids Coordinator role. It is exciting to see our team at Lobethal growing and consolidating as a staff team for mission and ministry across that campus. Its a joy to celebrate with Lobethal the 13 baptisms on May 24th!

At Youth, we've had a consistent contingent of young people being sold out for Jesus. We've been working through the Sermon on the Mount seeing how we have a call to be set apart, a call to bring in the Kingdom of God and a call to be free in Jesus.

Online we continue see people connecting in from across Australia and the world. In June we have had over 23,000 views on Facebook, over 34,000 views on Instagram and over 1000 plays on our podcast. Grabs from sermons, photos, thought-provoking slide decks and fun short videos of staff and volunteers have proved to be a great way to engage with the wider online community. At each campus we've had people walk in through our doors after engaging with us online first.

Across the church we are seeing people coming to faith, baptisms, people growing in faith and commitment. Keep praying with us for more - not so HBC can grow, but so God's kingdom would grow.

Love you church!

Nick van Ruth
Acting Senior Pastor



UNPACK THE CHRISTIAN FAITH TOGETHER



Over the past nine weeks, our Verdun and Mt Barker campuses have had the privilege of hosting Alpha, with 22 people registering to explore faith, ask questions, and connect in a welcoming environment.

A huge thank you to everyone who prayed, cooked meals, invited guests, and served throughout the course.

It was encouraging to see people from a wide range of backgrounds engage with the Alpha content. Some arrived with deep questions, others with significant life challenges, and several took important steps on their faith journey. Highlights included the Alpha Retreat at Mylor, where some participants prayed to receive the Holy Spirit, and celebrating a Teen Challenge participant reaching 12 months of sobriety.

We know God has been at work. Several guests have since attended church services, and a number were keen to continue meeting after Alpha concluded, with follow-up gatherings beginning on 14 July.

A special thank you also to Pastors Luke, Marion, and Jonty for participating in the final-night Q&A panel, which gave guests the opportunity to ask honest and challenging questions about Christianity.

Please continue praying for those who attended Alpha, trusting that God will continue the work He has begun in their lives.

AT THE END OF EACH ALPHA COURSE, WE INVITE OUR ATTENDEES TO WRITE A LETTER TO A FUTURE COURSE PARTICIPANT. WE'VE BEEN DEEPLY ENCOURAGED TO READ THE LETTER ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

HEY THERE ALPHA ATTENDEE
WELCOME TO ALPHA.

IF YOU'RE SOMEONE WITH A CURIOUS MIND,
SOMEONE SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS TO LIFES BIGGER
QUESTIONS, OR SOMEONE WHO'S ALWAYS WONDERED
WHY THINGS ARE THE WAY THEY ARE - AND
MAYBE EVEN A LITTLE SCEPTICAL ABOUT
RELIGION (THAT WAS DEFINITELY ME!) WELCOME!
YOU ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN 9 WEEKS OF
THOUGHT-PROVOKING CONVERSATIONS, HONEST QUESTIONS,
AND MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH A GROUP OF
PEOPLE YOU WILL SOON COME TO CALL FRIENDS

THERE WILL ALSO BE PLENTY OF LAUGHTER
AROUND THE TABLE.
DON'T BE NERVOUS OR SHY ABOUT SHARING
YOUR THOUGHTS OR ASKING QUESTIONS. NO
QUESTION IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL, AND IT IS
OFTEN IN THOSE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE
GREATEST LEARNING HAPPENS

IF THERE WAS I THOUGHT I COULD SHARE ABOUT
MY BIGGEST LESSON LEARNED IT IS. (M NOW)
COMFORTABLE KNOWING THAT I AM IMPERFECT &
FAAWED, YET I AM DEEPLY LOVED. THAT SIMPLE
TRUTH HAS BROUGHT ME A SENSE OF PEACE,
COMFORT AND REASSURANCE
WHILE REFLECTING ON MY ALPHA JOURNEY TODAY,
I CAME ACROSS A VERSE THAT TOUCHED MY HEART
AND I FELT COMPELLED TO SHARE WITH YOU

p70

IT IS FRIENDSHIP.

"BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDER HEARTED,
FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, JUST AS GOD
THROUGH CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN YOU."
- EPHESIANS 4:32

I'VE BEEN BLESSED TO MAKE SOME WONDERFUL
NEW FRIENDS THROUGH ALPHA. HOWEVER
IF I AM BEING COMPLETELY HONEST, THERE
IS ONE FRIENDSHIP I NEVER EXPECTED
TO FIND. IT IS MY FRIENDSHIP WITH

JESUS. ITS STILL NEW, IT IS STILL RAW
AND I STILL HAVE MANY MANY MANY
QUESTIONS - BUT I AM LEARNING THAT
HE IS PATIENT, LOVING AND ALWAYS
THERE WALKING ALONG SIDE ME

I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS JOURNEY AS
MUCH AS I HAVE. BE OPEN, BE CURIOUS
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY JUST BE YOURSELF
GOD BLESS YOU AND ALL YOU HOLD CLOSE
TO YOUR HEART.

P.S. THE FOOD IS AMAZING, SO SO GOOD

Is there more to life than this?

Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith, ask questions, and share your point of view. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome.

- Monday nights
- 6:30pm - 9pm
- Includes complimentary dinner & dessert
- At 36 Main Street, Lobethal
- Nine-week course

Our next course begins July 20

[Register Here!](#)



Want to build a better, stronger marriage?

**The
Marriage
Course**

**THE NEXT COURSE BEGINS
Tuesday August 11
at HBC Aldgate**

[More Info & Registration Here](#)

Seven weeks of engaging teaching, intentional private conversations with your spouse and delicious, homemade desserts.

Discipleship Sunday

July
26



On Sunday 26 July, which would normally be our first week of Kids Ministry for the term, our children will stay in the service as we celebrate Discipleship Sunday together across all HBC campuses.

Earlier this year in our May series, God's Vision For Your Life, we explored our church's discipleship pathway. Discipleship is personal, but it is never individual, it takes the whole church to raise disciples.

As part of this focus, we will be introducing **Brite**, the new Kids Ministry curriculum we have been trialling over the past two months. One of the things we love most about Brite is how closely it aligns with our understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Its core themes, **Belong**, **Believe**, **Become**, and **Bible**, complement our vision of discipleship while creating natural opportunities to emphasise **Behold** and facilitate **Build**.

We believe it is both a strong theological fit and a great cultural fit for HBC, helping us partner with families and raise a generation who know and follow Jesus. **Brite will be fully implemented across our Kids Ministries from August.**

We are excited for this next chapter as we continue being a family on mission together and seeing God at work across every generation.

Grace and peace,
Trent, Emma, Kim and the Pastoral Team

brite*

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,
- ◆ HBC's Got Talent,
- ◆ and more!

HILLSBAPTIST.COM/GATHERED

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

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 evenings
Aldgate

Tuesday mornings
Lobethal

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
Aug 8 | Sep 26

Two-Day Retreat
Oct 30 - Nov 1



Around the Table

Mission Sharing

Join us around the table for an afternoon of good food, great conversation, and inspiring stories from God's work across the globe. Hear from the Van Rossens and members of the Uganda mission team as they share experiences, insights, and highlights from their recent trip. We'll enjoy a delicious curry lunch together - everyone is welcome!

When: Sunday July 26, 2026, 12:30pm

Where: Hosted by Gavin & Sarah Fatchen at their home in Kanmantoo

RSVP: Jen (0434 461 642)



Journey into

MISSION

Step into a different world and experience Journey Into Mission, an interactive afternoon presented by Wycliffe Bible Translators in collaboration with the HBC Missions Committee. Through engaging activities and cultural experiences from a mystery destination, you'll gain a deeper understanding of life, faith, and mission in another part of the world. This fun and immersive event is suitable for all ages, with a delicious light meal included.

When: Saturday August 22, 2026, 1pm - 5pm

Where: HBC Aldgate (202 Old Mount Barker Road, Aldgate)

Cost: \$25 per person | \$40 per family

RSVP by August 15 and please advise any food allergies when registering.

[Sign Up Here!](#)



Food

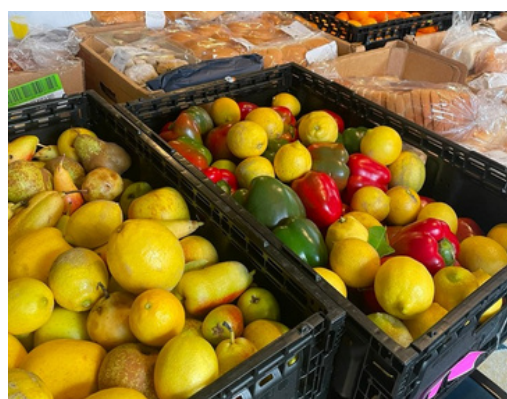


Pantry

HBC partners with OzHarvest to provide food to people across Mount Barker and surrounding areas. This is a partnership that reduces food waste, diverts food from landfill and supports many family budgets during our cost of living crisis. We stop for a coffee & chat and often a prayer of encouragement & support as bags are filled and empty boxes are packed away for the next week. Food Pantry is a simple ministry that has a threefold impact: creation is cared for, people are fed and we connect in community, sharing the ups and downs of life, caring for one another.

If you would like to join us, Food Pantry operates every Tuesday morning (except after a Monday public holiday) from 9-9:15am at 19 Victoria Road, Mount Barker. Food collection happens within that fifteen-minute window but we will be there longer for coffee, prayer and a chat. Just one of the ways we are being Jesus in our community. And don't forget your shopping bag!

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." Matthew 25:35





Declan Commissioned with CMS

On Sunday 5 July, we commissioned Declan as he takes his next step toward long-term cross-cultural mission. Declan has been accepted as a missionary with CMS and will soon head to Melbourne for six months of training before returning for partnership development and then serving overseas.

While the country cannot be publicly disclosed, Declan feels called to serve in a Muslim-majority nation in Asia through agricultural work, sharing the love of Jesus and making disciples.

Please pray for the people he will serve, for his training and preparation, for financial provision, and for opportunities to encourage others toward cross-cultural mission. Declan is also seeking partners to support him financially and in prayer. Please speak with him if you would like to be involved.



Mental Health

[More Info Here](#)

HBC Pastoral Staff are undertaking Mental Health First Aid training at HBC Aldgate on Monday August 3rd.

We have limited extra spots available, so if you are interested to join us, please contact the office at office@hillsbaptist.com.

Note: There is an online pre-learning component that would need to be paid for and completed before the in person training.



PeaceWise

building peacemakers for life

PeaceWise is focused on helping people learn a biblically-based, fresh approach to navigating everyday conflict.

Missed Day 1? No problem. Day 2 begins with a practical review of key concepts, making it easy to catch up and join in.



Let's hear from Val Petering (Aldgate) after the 'Everyday Peacemaking' day.

The PeaceWise Conference was well-worth attending, at the Aldgate Church on Sat July 11th. The Biblical teaching was clearly and attractively set out, in the study-booklet, matched with an equally clear presentation by the two leaders. This taught us to live a lifestyle of Peace, or Peace-making, wherever we are, personally and corporately, at home, school, work or church.

Conflict of some sort is inevitable in the world in which we live, so we were given these "Christian tools", to resolve the various levels of disagreements, clashes, hurts and misunderstandings. Some issues do take longer but when we turn to the God of Peace, He will change the "opportunity of conflict" to one of restoring peace again, along with making us more Christ-like. Changing our thinking, to live God's way, is what transforms our lives personally or in groups, and God gets all the glory.

July
25

Day 2:
Heart of Peacemaking
9am - 4pm

[More Info Here](#)



**HILLS
YOUTH**
Camp Fundraiser

Sign Up
Here

QUIZ NIGHT

Featuring quiz rounds, table games,
auctions, prizes and more!

Saturday August 8 at HCCS Verdun
5:30pm - 8:30pm for all ages



Building Project Update

Have you checked out the progress at Bollen Road lately?

As of today (July 16), the Assembly Hall is getting its roof, and it's exciting to see this vision taking shape. Thank you to everyone who has prayed, served, and given towards this project.

Please continue to pray for God's provision as we move forward. If you're feeling stirred to partner financially, you can contribute to the **Building Project Fund** through our website.

Together with King's Baptist Grammar School, we're creating a space that will serve our church and community for generations to come.

[GIVE](#)





QUIET PLACE RETREATS

Hearing God's Voice

We all will face times when life seems dark. The suggested theme for our winter Quiet Day Retreat at Norton Summit last month began with a reflection on Psalm 13 and encouraged us to hear God's voice when life circumstances and our spiritual journey seems dark and we wonder where God is.

In his article "God Is With You In The Darkness" Josh Powell says, "Be encouraged. No matter what you are facing, God sees you. He has been with you in every lonely night, He has heard every prayer you have said and knows every tear you have cried. He is with you...Jesus is not unaware of the pressures of this life and has promised to walk it with us. Someone to always talk to. You are not alone."

A question we can all ask ourselves is, how aware of His presence are we? What am I doing to be aware?

The 20 people who gathered at Norton Summit took time to 'stop and listen' and become aware of God's presence. Each one came away encouraged as a much-loved child of God and by what He was saying to them.

Check out these opportunities to 'step out of the traffic' and take time to hear what God is saying to you (more info and registrations to come):



Two-Day Retreat

Friday October 30 -
Sunday November 1

Sevenhill Retreat
Centre, Clare Valley



Contemplative Walks

Saturday August 8
Saturday September 26

Locations TBA

Latest Teaching...

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 series in 1 Peter on our website or podcast channels.



A Living Hope

Nick van Ruth (Aldgate)

[Listen](#)



A Morning with the Rock

Denby Tamms (Aldgate)

[Listen](#)



Don't Look Away

Luke Austin (Verdun)

[Listen](#)



Which Master Do You Serve?

Jesse Chamberlain (Verdun)

[Listen](#)



A New Identity, A New Purpose

Tony Watts (Lobethal)

[Listen](#)



The Surprising Power in Submission

Pif Tennant (Verdun)

[Listen](#)



Building Hope

Jonty Schulz (Mt Barker)

[Listen](#)



Like Minded & Different

Craig Schulz (Lobethal)

[Listen](#)

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS SUNDAY AUGUST 2ND



Two realities. Two voices. One choice, affirmed daily. The siren call of the world seeks to distract us from the pursuits God intends for us, urging us to focus only on what we can see and experience. Jesus acknowledges that a person can gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul. He also warns that a person can hear the Good News, only for it to be choked by the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life. The subtle rewiring of our minds is one of Satan's key strategies in his attempt to counterfeit God's Kingdom.

Christians are most vulnerable when their primary exposure is to the voice of culture rather than the voice of their Creator.

In this series from Luke's Gospel, we will explore the contrast between earthly and heavenly pursuits and discover our purpose in the Kingdom of God. Jesus proclaimed that His Kingdom is established through the proclamation of the gospel and the liberation of the oppressed, but He also made it clear that joining His mission is not for the faint-hearted.

It requires daily self-denial and a willingness to step into the pain and mess of the world, boldly declaring, "Jesus is King." Whose voice will you follow?

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God." Luke 9:23-27

Follow Me
ONE EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

From the GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council met in July, with good progress made across several areas of church life.

A significant milestone was reached on the Bollen Road journey, with the Governing Council ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding between HBC and Kings Baptist Grammar School. The MOU sets out how responsibilities, costs, and decision-making will be shared, and is now ready to be signed by all partners.

The Council also ratified several updated policies covering workplace health and safety, staff leave, and member grievance and conflict resolution. A broader review of HBC's policies is underway, with a new review process now in place to keep them current. This is an important part of ensuring HBC remains a safe and supportive environment for everyone.

HBC will take part in the National Church Life Survey in September across all campuses. This is a great opportunity to hear from our church family, and the insights will help inform our strategic planning. More details will be shared closer to the date.

A review of the planting of our Lobethal campus is currently underway. The learnings from this review will help inform future church plants and our strategic planning document. We're thankful for everyone who has taken the time to contribute.

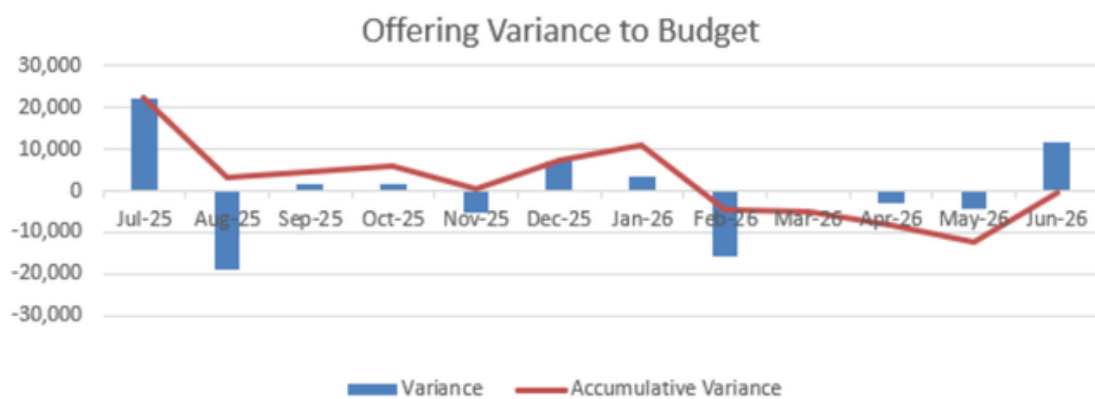
Finally, it's our joy to welcome the following new members into membership at Hills Baptist Church:

- Kerry Kowald
- Josiah Moore
- Hazel Paton
- Alex Moore
- Nathan Moore

Finance Report

We are grateful to report that we finished the financial year on budget. Thank you to everyone who gives faithfully to God's work through HBC. We'll share a more detailed year-end summary soon, but it's encouraging to celebrate a result that has enabled us to meet our commitments and continue pursuing our ministry plan.

Looking ahead, the year promises to be both exciting and challenging. We are encouraged by the continued growth across our church and by the visible progress on the Assembly Hall, which is really starting to take shape. As these opportunities grow, so do our financial commitments, but we remain confident that God will continue to provide for His work. The budget for the coming year has been approved and shared with members, and we look forward to seeing all that God will do through the resources He has entrusted to us.



Campus	YTD	YTD vs Budget
Aldgate	462,619	-2.1%
Mt Barker / Verdun	851,982	-4.0%
Lobethal	202,001	28.3%
Total	1,516,602	0.0%

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

JULY

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Monday 20	Alpha Course Launch Night (9-week course)	Lobethal
Wednesday 22	Playgroup Resumes (T3)	Lobethal
Wednesday 22	Seniors : Wednesday Worship	Mt Barker / Verdun
Thursday 23	Playgroup Resumes (T3)	Mt Barker
Friday 24	Hills Youth Resumes (T3)	All Campuses
Saturday 25	PeaceWise Training: Heart of Peacemaking	All Campuses
Sunday 26	Discipleship Sunday - All Ages Services	All Campuses
Sunday 26	Around the Table: Mission Sharing Lunch	All Campuses

AUGUST

DATE	EVENT	RELEVANT CAMPUS
Saturday 1	JNR YTH: In House	All Campuses
Sunday 2	"Follow Me" New Sermon Series Launch	All Campuses
Thursday 6	Boomers	Aldgate
Thursday 6	Dwelling Place Evening	All Campuses
Saturday 8	Quiet Place Contemplative Walk	All Campuses
Saturday 8	Quiz Night: Hills Youth Camp Fundraiser	All Campuses
Tuesday 11	The Marriage Course Begins (7-week course)	All Campuses
Fri 14 - Sun 16	Internship Retreat	All Campuses
Monday 17	Dave returns from long service leave	All Campuses
Saturday 22	Journey Into Mission Event	All Campuses
Saturday 29	JNR YTH: Woodhouse	All Campuses

Family NEWS

Loving Homes Needed

Many in our Verdun and Mount Barker congregations know and love Jutta and Lionel Levey. As they transition into residential care, their family is seeking loving new homes for their two cherished pets.

Tortie is a 7–8 year old desexed female **tortoiseshell cat**. She is house-trained, gentle, and a little shy at first, but loves curling up on a lap once she feels comfortable.

Lilly is a 7–8 year old desexed female **Chihuahua**. She takes a little time to warm to people but loves food, pats, and sitting on laps.

Food, bedding, a litter tray, and Lilly's kennel can all be provided to help with the transition.

If you may be interested in giving either of these pets a loving home, please contact Andy Bryant on 0407 725 188 for more information.

Farewell to the Dover Family

On Sunday at our Verdun campus, we had the privilege of farewelling the Dover family (Des, Bek, Joel, Megan, Isaac) as they begin an exciting new chapter in Tasmania.

While we will miss them greatly, we are thankful for the many ways they have contributed to the life of our church family over the years. Please join us in praying for a smooth transition, new friendships, and God's continued leading in this next season of their adventure.

KBGS Mid-Year Intake

Please pray for the 22 new students joining KBGS this term. Pray that they would settle in quickly, build strong friendships, and feel welcomed into the school community, and that God would bless them and their families during this transition.

*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*



We'd love your help in spreading the word about our HBC family!

Leaving us a quick Google review only takes a minute, and it really helps people who are searching for a Christian church to find a place to belong.

If you've been blessed by being part of our community, your few words could make a big difference.

[Review Aldgate](#)

[Review Lobethal](#)

[Review Verdun](#)

Mt Barker coming soon!

Are You
FOLLOWING?





Hills
Baptist
Church

