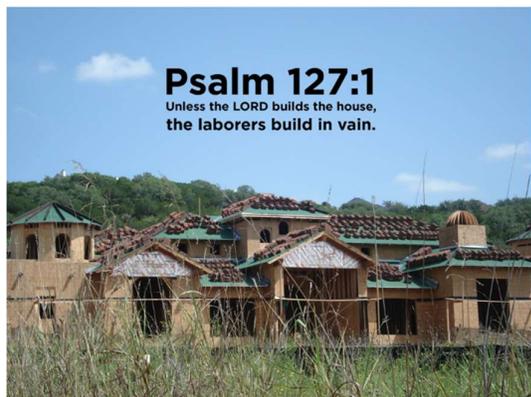




### Welcome from Matt Hunt

Welcome to the third HVC newsletter! We have recently celebrated our 1-year anniversary, and hasn't time flown.

This newsletter focuses on recent meetings with a number of churches and organisations with whom HVC has been meeting along with a report on the recent trip I made to the UK.



Thank you to all those of you who continue to pray for HVC and provide support in many other ways. We feel God's hand in the work we are undertaking, and pray for the potential leads we have to work with those who share our vision.

Matt Hunt  
Lead Consultant

### Thanking Elisha Roberts

In June we were sad to receive the resignation by Elisha Roberts from the HVC Board. Elisha has been involved with the HVC concept since before its incorporation and has served on the HVC Board as Treasurer for the past year. We would like to thank Elisha for her work and support of HVC and wish her and her family many blessings as Elisha progresses in her new employment contract. Thank you Elisha.



### London Institute of Contemporary Christianity Together: International Forum



In June I attended the LICC Together: International Forum. The purpose of the forum was bringing together church leaders with some experience in *"... the long-haul journey of seeing radical culture shifts in our churches so that those who worship together know how their experience of gathered church explicitly equips them in their scattered lives."*

In other words, how can we together develop whole-life disciples (WLD) – people committed to asking themselves and one another the question, "What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus at this time, *in this place*, with these people?" (my emphasis)



LICC International Forum Australian Delegation

There were great encouragements across the Forum. On Day 1 we heard David Thompson from the Presbyterian church in Ireland talk about how a whole denomination embraced WLD as a priority across its movement. On Day 3 we heard from a large and small church on how they engaged with WLD in their different settings. We also heard some excellent material from both Mark Greene and Dave Benson on ways theological educators are seeking to bring WLD throughout all their teaching.

Other encouragements included introducing new language such as 'discipleshaping' which can assist in the myriad of understandings and definitions in the church of the word "discipleship". 'Discipleshaping' summed up the thought that everything a local church does, and indeed an individual believer does, shapes disciples.

On Day 2 we spent time sharing our own stories of how the delegates matured as followers of Jesus, answering



in effect the question, ‘what shaped your discipleship?’. David Thompson shared this excellent quote that can shape our understanding of WLD,

*“The word discipleship may have vanished from the apostles’ writings, but the concept of discipleship was clearly there. The difference is that the emphasis is now not on the individual responding to the call of Jesus, but on the group learning to reshape their lives in the light of that call”*

*Following Jesus: the plural of Disciple is church,  
Alison Morgan*

The goal of the gathering – to encourage the proponents and participants of the WLD movement as represented across the globe – was noticeably met by these encouragements. There was a sense of movement and gathering, the meeting of new friends committed to the same Lord Jesus and his priority of whole of life discipleship. Sharing of ideas and steps both publicly and in private conversations was of enormous value. The spread of ministry settings and countries of origin in which presentations were made was wonderful.

### UK Local Church Owned Community Centre Visits

The LICC Forum provided an opportunity for visits to several local churches with community ministries which reflect HVC values, including

- The Stowe, Swindon. This plant was led by Ali Boulton. Ali has been leading this work since 2009 and has a strong and accepted role in the community. The church does not have a venue but has met in the community centre in the development, built and managed by the local council.
- Beginnings of a new church work in Graven Hill, a new development outside Bicester which has been featured on the BBC program *Grand Designs*. To read more information on the development and Helen Barker, click on the link.

[https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/547764/A\\_Grand\\_Design.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/547764/A_Grand_Design.aspx)



*Views of the new development at Graven Hill,*

- Local church run community centre, Altrincham Baptist church and The Hub. The centre is well used in a variety of community activities including young Mums and toddler groups, Christians Against poverty services, women’s meetings, music events and the like. The Hub also has a not-for profit café.



*Ashley  
Hardingham and  
Sara Hayes of  
Altrincham Baptist*

- Life Centre, Langworthy Community Centre. Centre activities include a Prayer Space, work with local schools including a breakfast group for neglected children, counselling each week, free legal advice with local Christian solicitor once a month, provision of food parcels with Red Cross for asylum seekers, partnered programmes for teaching English, and a reading programme with year 3 kids. In school holidays, the centre provides a ‘Holiday hunger’ programme for kids who get free meals at school, alongside a vacation programme.

### Looking ahead – praying together

Pray for HVC as we work towards our first projects:

- Care arm and local church project in WA
- Regional town Local church in WA
- Partnership possibilities with a state denomination
- Our next new resource in 2020
- Beginning of development of graduate diploma in hybrid pastoral leadership

