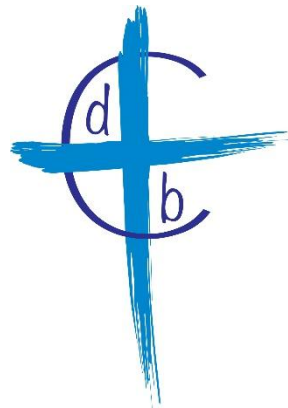


Discovery Bay Church



**Annual General Meeting
17 May 2026**

**Discovery Bay Church
Annual General Meeting
17th May 2026
Agenda**

- 1. Welcome & Prayer**
- 2. Election of AGM Secretary for Minutes**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes from AGM 11th May 2025**
- 5. Department Reports:**
 - a. Priest-in-Charge
 - b. Wardens
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Children and Youth
 - e. Fellowship Groups
 - f. Music Team
 - g. Outreach
 - h. Refreshments
 - i. Safeguarding
- 6. Motion to receive reports as written**
- 7. Nomination of Wardens**
- 8. Election of Church Committee**
- 9. Vote of Thanks to All**
- 10. Motion to Adjourn**
- 11. Blessing**

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DISCOVERY BAY CHURCH AGM MINUTES

SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025

1. Welcome and prayer

The AGM opened with welcome and prayer by priest-in-charge Revd Drew Courtright.

2. Election of AGM Secretary

John Tanner was elected to record the minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda

Tor Mesoy moved to add "AOB" to the agenda after the Word of Thanks (item 9). The agenda was thus amended and approved.

4. Minutes of AGM minutes 2024

The minutes from the 2024 AGM were reviewed and unanimously approved.

5. Departmental reports

Revd Drew called attention to the departmental reports included in the Discovery Bay Church Annual Report:

- A. Priest in Charge Annual Report
- B. Associate Priest Annual Report
- C. Warden's Report
- D. Treasurer's Report
- E. Discovers Report
- F. Music Report
- G. Discovery Bay Church Ladies Bible Study Group Report
- H. Refreshments Team Report

Revd Drew referred AGM attendees to the reports for more details. Attendees had no further comments or questions. Revd Drew gave thanks to the authors of each report, as well as team leaders and those who serve on the teams for their service to the church.

6. Motion to receive the reports as written

The motion to receive the reports as written was seconded and passed.

7. Nomination of Wardens

Peter von Heune Chan was nominated Priest Warden by Revd Drew. Peter accepted the nomination.

Rachael Mellado stepped down as People's Warden, but will continue to serve on the committee.

Revd Drew nominated Rese Hopkinson to take over the role of People's Warden. Rese accepted the nomination.

Both nominations were approved unanimously.

8. Election of Church Committee

Continuing committee members:

Gerald Chua, Andy Green, Frances Fong-Kling, Adrian King, Rachael Mellado, Andrew Read, Liz Starkey, Jarod Vermette

Departing committee members:

Deirdre Scott, John Tanner

New committee members:

Rese Hopkinson, Mark Li

The continuing and new committee members were elected unanimously.

9. Vote of Thanks for All

Revd Drew thanked everyone for their dedication and service to the church, and especially for being so welcoming and helpful as he and his family settled into Discovery Bay. Revd Drew also gave special thanks to Rachael, Dierdre and John for their service.

Revd Drew also invited and encouraged the congregation to find ways they could also be of service to the church.

10. AOB

ITEM: Tor Mesoy commended Revd Drew and the committee for releasing the Annual Report substantially earlier compared to last year, and requested that next year's Annual Report be released at least two days before the next AGM.

Revd Drew said he would aim for at least two weeks lead time for the Annual Report from here on.

ITEM: Rese Hopkinson asked about community outreach ministries that adults and children could participate in.

Revd Drew said he will explore this with the committee. He noted that DBC currently supports the chaplaincy ministry at North Lantau Hospital, and he will look for ways we can expand our support and involvement for that ministry beyond just financial support.

ITEM: Andy Green gave a special thanks to Revd Drew for coming to DBC to become the new PIC and bring us out of a challenging transition period to help shepherd and grow the church.

ITEM: Bill Proudfit asked about a discrepancy in the financial report in which two different figures are given for DBC's annual income on Page 5 and Page 6.

Revd Drew clarified that the figure on Page 5 is the correct one, which shows that DBC's annual income decreased by HKD14,000 year on year – the figure on Page 6 is an editing error which will be corrected.

Revd Drew added that as there was no stewardship campaign during the interregnum, the committee will be looking at reviving the campaign later this year.

11. Blessing and adjournment

Revd Drew ended the meeting with a blessing. The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

5. Departmental Reports:

a. Priest-in-Charge

The 2025/26 period was one of fresh energy and enthusiasm as Drew's ministry takes root and more people are finding and benefitting from DBC's ministry. We thank God for a great year! Below are the key details.

Attendance

Average Sunday attendance for 2025 was 80 persons, compared with 55 in 2024, with a high of 128 (All Saints) and a low of 39 (3 August). Average attendance through 3 May 2026 is 102.

Fellowship Groups and Social Events

DBC continues to support and enjoy regular fellowship groups. Youth Group meets every other week for fun, faith, and food, averaging 20 youth and 6 adults. Mandarin Bible Study meets every other Friday night for Bible Study in a rotating home, averaging 9. English Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 11am at Drew's home, averaging 8. And we added a Sri Lankan Fellowship for new members from that country who meet after church to pray and sing together, averaging 8 persons.

Sunday School (Discoverers Class) grew so much that by May 2025 we had to split into two classrooms (Big and Littles). Our eight total teachers serve on average 20 total children per Sunday.

Post-service refreshments remain valuable for community building. Shrove Tuesday and Summer Pot Luck Suppers, a Christmas Dinner, small group fellowship time, pastoral visits, and chance encounters around town all build up the social life of the parish.

SKH Wei Lun School Chaplaincy

DBC's relationship with our hosts at SKH Wei Lun continues to grow positively. Drew joined for many school assemblies and worship services. In Summer 2025, Drew was officially endorsed as a Chaplain at the school. In the first quarter of 2026, Drew has also begun joining the Friday afternoon Christian Fellowship group during the school day and has been greeting students at the gate once a week as well.

Refreshed Communications

During the summer of 2025, Drew and Committee member Gerald Chua created a new website, both improving the digital face of the church and saving thousands of HKD by cancelling the previous website host. Drew maintains a modest Instagram presence and also sends a weekly Friday email to the congregation. We advertise in the local magazine AroundDB (shared with HKSKH Church of the Incarnation) and Drew was also profiled by AroundDB in the February issue which has brought new awareness of and interest in our church.

For these and many more blessings we thank God!

The Rev. Drew Courtright

b. Wardens

Wow! What a year. It feels like the Courtright family have been around for years yet Epiphany marked the first anniversary for Father Drew as Priest-In-Charge of Discovery Bay Church. Together we have journeyed through the last 12 months embracing many of our annual traditions (even the quirky ones), clearing out a handful of outgrown ones and creating many new ones.

As Drew approached his first Christmas at DBC, he was immersed in the wonderful chaos of our popular Christingle service, which was attended by 240 people! With three kings, many sheep, shepherds, angels and our very own baby Natalie making her debut as baby Jesus, this beloved, high-energy tradition needed no changes thanks to his trust of our long-term members.

Pot luck suppers have become a huge success at Drews home and this year Shrove Tuesday coincided with Chinese New Year so what better way to prepare for Lent than a (Pancake) Pot luck. That Sunday, we held our own Imposition of Ashes at DBC and I had a wonderful

opportunity to share its meaning when a stranger stopped me to ask why so many people were walking around with black crosses on their foreheads.

What began as a popular Lenten study in 2025 has blossomed into a growing, regular gathering. A group of us now meet every Wednesday morning to delve into the upcoming readings, strengthening our fellowship and understanding.

Our beautiful Palm Sunday service was attended by 117 people. Passers-by watched as we waved our large palm leaves and processed from outside the church into the main hall, while the musicians played from the balcony. A tingling moment as we were mindful about what Jesus may have been feeling at this time...

It was a truly blessed season, from the warm appreciation of women on Mothering Sunday where all the ladies received flowers, to our contemplative Stations of the Cross walk to the Monastery. Sharing hot cross buns, fresh oranges and our dawn service on the beach made Easter an unforgettable celebration.

Friday night youth nights have been extremely popular. This provides a great platform for the younger members to explore their faith in a relaxed way, while munching on pizza and playing games.

Drew recently took some much-deserved time for his Wellness retreat and we were kindly looked after by Rev'd Canon Dr Alison Gray who was visiting from overseas.

To give you a better feel of our church, here's what an average Sunday at DBC looks like...

Margaret, Drews eldest daughter, arrives with her Dad. Happy and very focused, she helps to set up church. Whatever needs to be done, she gets stuck in. While the table is prepared and the altar is set, the musicians can be heard practising, someone whistles along and the refreshments team are bustling away setting up tea and coffee. Many, many rows of chairs are put out to accommodate our growing congregation. Lucy, Drews middle daughter, is great at putting out the soft mats for the young children to crawl around on. The Discoverers team arrive and grab what they need from their heavy trolley to set up the classrooms for Sunday School and the banner is set up downstairs so passers by know we're there. Caroline, Drews youngest daughter, flurries in wearing her princess dress and pretty shoes (yes every week). She's usually got something very exciting to tell us before she skips off to help with handing out hymn books and service sheets. By now, Drew is geared up and ready to meet each member of the congregation as they arrive.

Afterwards, many people mingle with a fresh coffee and get to know each other better while the children burn off a bit of energy. Folks muck in and help to clear everything away into the storeroom as tomorrow our beautiful church will become a school hall again.

The service runs smoothly, occasionally with the odd hiccup (we're only human). But it's the happy, buzzing air about the room before and after that reminds us that we're a church family, helping and supporting one another.

Thank you to the committee team; Drew, Adrian, Andrew, Andy, Frances, Gerald, Jarod, Liz, Mark, Peter, Rachael & Rese. Each of us bring our own unique quality which makes us a great team. But mostly our thanks go to Drew; a friend of mine has a life motto, 'just say yes!' Drew, just over a year ago, you said yes to moving you and your family to the other side of the world and it has made a world of difference to us so...Thank You.

Peter Von Huene Chan (Church Warden)
Rese Hopkinson (Peoples Warden)

c. Treasurer

God has blessed Discovery Bay Church with an increasing, and increasingly generous, congregation this year. The church's income for the 2025 calendar year was HK\$1,101,000, a 41% increase from 2024 (HK\$778,000). This followed significant increases in average Sunday attendance and in the average weekly donation from HK\$245 p.p. in 2024 to HK\$268 p.p. in 2025 (almost 10%).

The church ran a successful stewardship campaign during the autumn during which Father Drew and three members of the congregation (including your Treasurer) spoke on Sundays on the topic of stewardship in general and financial contributions in particular. Individual stewardship contributions remain strictly confidential and are known only to an administrator at the Cathedral, but I am pleased to report that the response to the campaign was immediate and generous. Many of our congregants stepped forward to set up monthly bank donations, a number of which are very sizable and especially generous.

Our church's aim, under Father Drew and the committee, as a daughter church of the Cathedral is to contribute our financial fair share to the Cathedral and its Christian mission in Hong Kong. I am very pleased to tell you that we are succeeding in our objective and we look forward, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, to doing even more in the coming year. In this respect we play our part as the Church Militant to ensure that "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

Andrew Read Treasurer, Discovery Bay Church

d. Children and Youth

Discovers Class

Our children's ministry is vibrant, and has grown nicely over the past year.

On most Sundays we offer Discoverers classes that run in parallel with (a part of) the service in the main hall. On special Sundays we include the children in the main service – the message will then address the children directly. In addition to these regular events on Sundays, it is worth highlighting two special events: the nativity pageant and the Michaelmas fair.

Children participating in the Discoverers classes

Participation in the pre-primary class (ages 0-6) typically ranges from 8 children to 12 children.

Participation in the primary+ class (ages 7 and up) typically ranges from 12 children to 18 children.

Recent changes

This year we made a substantial change: we split the children into two classes: pre-primary and primary+. This has made it easier to offer age-appropriate programs for each group, and to keep our children engaged. The oldest participating children – who are now young teenagers – regularly contribute by teaming up with the younger children in their class and helping them.

A second change this year is that we have established a recommended (simple) liturgy for the Discoverers classes, including age-appropriate opening prayer, children's creed and blessing. Depending on the session, individual leaders use some or all of these elements. While we encourage leaders to be creative and apply their own style, the continuity provided by this simple, common liturgy seems helpful.

A third change is that Drew has subscribed to a series of activity booklets that are aligned with the readings for each Sunday. He kindly prints these out in advance, and makes them available. The booklets serve at least three purposes:

- a) They make it easier to plan and run a session with limited preparation. A 'bare bones' session can consist of reading the text and discussing with the children (or paraphrase the bible story, as appropriate) + liturgy elements + activity booklet. Sometimes, when leaders are stretched, having this fallback is useful.
- b) They provide a 'buffer activity' at the end of the session, in case the planned activities (crafts etc.) took less time than planned
- c) They provide an optional activity for children after they return to the main hall.

Leaders

Over the past year we have said a big “thank you” to Rosario Paulina Matos who served faithfully during a season, and we have welcomed others who have put up their hand. We are blessed with an engaged and diverse group of leaders who support one another when this is called for.

A warm welcome to Lily, who has signed up for primary+ class, and to Alice, Anna and Sky, who now run the pre-primary class.

We celebrate that Moira and Luca have signed up for a trial run as leaders for the pre-primary class. We shall endeavour to support them so they have an enjoyable run.

Leaders who continue to serve include Rachael, Andrew, Frances and Tor.

Our sense is that the children enjoy the variety of styles and formats as Discoverers leaders rotate.

Our current coverage is fine, but additional leaders will be warmly welcomed. We want to ask our leaders to serve once a month, so that they can address other priorities on intervening Sundays.

We are happy to provide hints on how to design, prepare and conduct sessions. New team members are also welcome to sit in on a few sessions to get a sense of how we run Discoverers.

This year we piloted a slightly more structured “apprenticeship model” where a new leader can work with an experienced leader until they are comfortable to fly solo. Some new leaders will be comfortable after a single joint session. Others will want a few more. We hope that this model will make it easier for new leaders to sign up. One proven model to apprentice a new leader has four steps:

- a) I (experienced leader) do, you (new leader) watch
- b) I do, you help
- c) You do, I help
- d) You do, I watch.

Special events

Jane led the charge to organize the nativity Pageant at Christmas, with Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, shepherd, magi and a huge flock of (sometimes slightly bewildered) sheep. This is a cherished tradition and a key part of what is typically the service where we have the highest attendance.

Michaelmas Fair, where some of the children sold items for charity, and raised more than HKD 6000.

In closing: a big THANKS to members of our congregation – and visitors - who entrust us with their children.

Youth Group

Youth Group has had a great year! The regular gatherings provide a venue that is warm and welcoming that can allow opportunities for sharing and community for youth on Friday nights. Attendance is at a minimum 15 youths with some nights having spikes in attendance. The age range of the participants is from 6 to 13. As a general practice, we request that an adult or designated guardian is present with them. Fr. Drew continues to bring a welcome injection of experience and enthusiasm in running the youth activities, including a “Circle Time” with some biblical teaching, games indoors like “Steal the Bacon”, and activities outdoors in the adjacent North Plaza Pitch, like ultimate frisbee. DBC provides either pizza from Figo’s or Chinese buns that Frances picks up on her way home.

One regular attending family relocated back to their home country at the end of 2025. Fr Drew and participants were able to give them a send-off by saying goodbye and praying for them. The family have expressed their appreciation for Youth Group and we are thankful for this opportunity to build connections and trust within the community.

This winter, the North Plaza Community Centre underwent renovations in the Hall. Frances ably secured the Multi-purpose Room of the DB Office in South Plaza for multiple nights of games and hanging (without the badminton!). Unfortunately, that space was later used for all the ice hockey teams so for March and April we offered two Movie Nights. Attendance was great (18+ at each) and we are so thankful to Lily Tang for hosting the events at her JoyLeap tutoring storefront in North Plaza.

As the older participants of Youth Group now enter their teenage years, we are hopeful and prayerful that Y.G. continues to provide a fun and attractive venue for them to spend their Friday evenings. A continuation of the Movie Nights and introduction of Basketball at Club Siena may be considered for future activities.

Senior Table Tennis is running smoothly every week on Saturdays, notwithstanding the temporary closure of the Community Centre Hall. Imelda and her husband have been doing a wonderful job of organizing and signing into the community hall and attendees are very cooperative. They are thankful for the arrangement of DBC

Drew Courtright, Gerald Chua, and Frances Fong

e. Fellowship Groups

English Bible Study

The English Bible Study began in Lent 2025 and, after a successful launch, continued until a break over the summer, picking back up in the autumn every week. Hosted in Drew's home, the group ranges from six to twelve persons each week, with tea served. Drew selects one of the readings from the upcoming Sunday lectionary and prepares a Bible Study. The conversations flows nicely and includes teaching on the background and meaning of the text, as well as personal experiences and insights from the group. The group has been a welcome addition to the weekly rhythm of DBC's spiritual life.

Mandarin Fellowship

Our bi-lingual (Mandarin/English) fellowship meets on the first and third Friday of each month from 8pm to 9pm, hosted by four different families on a rotating basis. In 2025, We studied the book of Acts, and starting in February 2026, we have been studying the Gospel of Mark. Many thanks to Mark Li for organizing the group! The fellowship also enjoys occasional Hot Pot dinners.

Sri Lankan Fellowship

Beginning in October 2025, DBC now offers a Sri Lankan Fellowship for parishioners who have a special connection that country and language. Overseen by Drew with support from Carmel Nilmini, the group meets after Refreshments time for additional prayer and reflection in one of the Discoverers rooms. The Sri Lankan Fellowship has also organized a few gatherings at St John's Cathedral for additional fellowship on the "island side," gathering from 3:00-5:00pm for fellowship before attending the 5:00pm service at St John's. This additional language-based fellowship group has been a blessing to the life of DBC.

f. Music Team

The music team has continued to grow with the addition of at least two new choristers to support piano and guitar as well as occasional, strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion. The hope continues that more musicians and singers will join – no auditions required!

As in previous years, Christmas events for the music team included organising a string quartet and choir for the Nine Lessons and Carols service, and a wind band for the Christmas Eve Christingle and Nativity service, which continues after many years to be a popular family event for the DB community. A number of church members also participated in some annual DB carolling with a band co-organised by Madi Price which raised funds for Bethune House and for victims of the 2025 Tai Po fire.

Continued thanks are due to our dedicated team of talented musicians, including youth members, who willingly give their time and energy to ensure the continuation of our thriving music ministry.

Mark Willett

g. Outreach/Charity Work

North Lantau Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry: DB Church has been supporting the chaplaincy ministry at North Lantau hospital in Tung Chung for around the last six years or so. Since it's a Chinese language ministry, we mostly just support them with an annual donation of HK\$1,000 but that also entitles us to attend their AGM and vote for board members. John Tanner and Rev. Courtright will represent DBC this year at their AGM.

John Tanner

DBC also organized two food item donation drives for Bethune House. The Harvest Festival Ingathering donated multiple boxes of rice and other pantry staples. Then a Lenten Appeal delivered over 130 cartons of UHT milk, as requested by Bethune House.

DBC joined in with the Michaelmas Fair at St. John's Cathedral for the first time in a while in 2025. Our booth sold accessories donated by Rosario Matos' workplace as well as original artwork by DBC parishioner Richard Crosbie. We raised more than \$12,000 HKD.

h. Refreshments

Refreshments are an integral component of fellowship. Congregants enjoy coffee, tea, juice, cookies, snacks, and delicious home-baked goods after formal worship service ends.

The refreshments team has embraced the challenge of keeping up with significant church growth. We have attempted to maximize efficiency by brewing drip coffee, adding another Nespresso machine, and using compostable cups. Each experiment has yielded benefits and drawbacks. We will continue to evaluate our operation since we still lack access to a refrigerator or kitchen. As always, congregants are encouraged to bring their own reusable insulated flasks. While the church has grown, the core team managing refreshments has become smaller. We need more people on the rota. We are grateful to those who spontaneously help on Sundays.

Many thanks to all who contribute snacks, donations, equipment, and service.

—Rachael Mellado, on behalf of the refreshments team

i. Safeguarding

As you may have seen from the weekly bulletin sheets, I have been appointed this year as Safeguarding Officer for Discovery Bay Church. The role of a safeguarding officer is to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults within our church community, implementing safeguarding policies, and promoting a culture of safety.

Under the policy established by the SKH we ask all teachers in our young people programs to complete declarations and information forms. We also follow a policy of having at least 2 adults in each class.

In the coming year we will continue updating our records and improving our processes to support our church in the vital work of making Discovery Bay church a safe space for everyone! If you at anytime have safeguarding concerns please let me know.

Dr Andy Green

6. Motion to receive reports as written

7. Nomination of Wardens

- a. Priest's Warden: Peter von Huene Chan
- b. People's Warden: Rese Hopkinson

8. Election of Church Committee

- a. Continuing committee members:
- b. Frances Fong-Kling, Adrian King, Andrew Read, Jarod Vermette, Gerald Chua, Andy Green, Liz Starkey, Rachael Mellado, Mark Li.
- c. New Nominations: Stephen Copeman (to also serve as co-opted member to the Cathedral Council to represent DBC)

9. Vote of Thanks to All

10. Motion to Adjourn

11. Blessing

