

Faith in Motion

The Revd Drew Courtright's Path to Serving a Vibrant Community

Text by / NATASHA NGAN

Nestled between the serene waters of Discovery Bay and the bustling energy of Hong Kong, the Revd Drew Courtright is embracing a new chapter of life and ministry. Recently appointed as Chaplain of St John's Cathedral and Priest-in-Charge of Discovery Bay Church, Drew brings a warm heart, a thoughtful spirit, and a deep commitment to serving his community. Over a conversation filled with laughter and reflection, Drew shared his journey, vision, and the joys of settling into this vibrant city.



Drew is loving life in Discovery Bay. He speaks fondly of the community's welcoming spirit and the charm of its pedestrian-friendly lifestyle. 'We love not having a car', he says with a smile. 'We are so grateful to have use of the golf cart, but there's something special about walking by the water and soaking in the surroundings'. While he's still getting the hang of Hong Kong's transport system, he's already found joy in the rhythm of ferry rides and the ease of exploring on foot.

Family life is thriving, too. Drew's daughters have settled happily into their new school, and he's made it a priority to involve them in church activities. He recalls a touching moment when he brought his eldest daughter to a healing service, cherishing the opportunity to share such meaningful experiences with his children. At home, his wife Alice, a talented writer, is balancing her creative projects with the joys of motherhood.

Drew's journey to ministry began in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he grew up in an Episcopalian family. As a teenager, he found himself drawn to the church, leading retreats and discovering a passion for service. Though he didn't initially envision becoming a priest, his curiosity about theology led him to St Andrews in Scotland for further studies. It was during that time that he met Alice who also shared a deep commitment to the faith, and together they pursued theological education. After graduation, Drew embarked on a discernment process that ultimately led to his ordination.

'I experienced a happy, healthy church where people shared their love for Jesus with me', Drew reflects. 'That's what I want to do—preach and embody Christ's grace and peace'.

The opportunity to serve in Hong Kong came through a listing in the Episcopal News Service, just as Drew and his family were considering a move abroad. Intrigued by Discovery Bay after hearing about it from a parishioner, Drew and Alice visited in July and were captivated by the city's beauty and warmth. The decision to move felt natural, and they haven't looked back since.

Adjusting to life in Hong Kong hasn't been without its challenges, particularly the language barrier. Yet Drew believes that the essence of pastoral care—listening and being present—transcends cultural differences. He values the diversity of his congregation and is committed to connecting with each individual, no matter their background.

At the heart of Drew's vision for Discovery Bay Church is a desire to build a happy, healthy community rooted in God's grace. 'I want to create spaces where people encounter God's love through Word and Sacrament', he explains. 'When we help others place their faith in Christ, that relationship naturally overflows into loving our neighbours in His name'.

As our conversation came to a close, Drew's enthusiasm for the future was palpable. He's eager to meet the community, share in their lives, and grow together in faith. His message to the congregation is both simple and profound: 'We're happy to be here, happy to serve, and eager to know Christ and make Him known'.

As Drew settles into his new role, it's clear that his dedication and vision will leave a lasting impact on both St John's Cathedral and Discovery Bay Church. The journey ahead is bright, and the community looks forward to walking this path together with him.

