

Discovery Bay Church



**Annual General Meeting
11 May 2025**

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Agenda**

- 1. Welcome & Prayer**
- 2. Election of AGM Secretary for Minutes**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes from AGM 9th June 2024**
- 5. Department Reports:**
 - a. Priest-in-Charge
 - b. Wardens
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Discoverers
 - e. Music Team
 - f. Outreach
 - g. Refreshments
 - h. Youth Ministry
- 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

9 JUNE 2024

1. Welcome and prayer

AGM opened with welcome and prayer by acting priest-in-charge Dean KK Chan.

2. Election of AGM Secretary

John Tanner was elected to record the minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no amendments.

4. Minutes of AGM minutes 2023

The minutes from the 2023 AGM were reviewed and unanimously approved.

5. Departmental reports

Dean KK Chan quickly 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

Dean KK referred AGM attendees to the reports for more details. Attendees had no further comments or questions. Dean KK gave thanks to the authors of each report, particularly Father Mark Rogers, who departed DB Church in April 2024.

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 Dean KK Chan. Peter accepted the nomination. Rachel Mellado was nominated by Dean KK Chan and confirmed to continue as People's Warden.

8. Election of Church Committee

Continuing committee members:

Frances Fong-Kling, Adrian King, Andrew Read, Deirdre Scott, John Tanner, Jarod Vermette, Gerald Chua, Andy Green, Liz Starkey.

No new nominations were submitted. The continuing committee members were re-elected unanimously.

9. Vote of Thanks for All

Dean KK Chan thanked everyone for their dedication and service to the church in official and unofficial ways, especially during the interregnum period. Dean KK gave special thanks to Rev. Sokhan Yang for her hard work during the interregnum, as well as the wardens and department leaders.

10. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

5. Departmental Reports:

a. Priest-in-Charge, The Rev. Drew Courtright

2024/25 was a year of transition, continued incremental growth, and preparation for a new Priest-in-Charge. Here are some details.

Attendance

Average Sunday attendance for 2024 was 55 persons. This compares with an average of 53 person for 2023. There was a slight uptick in attendance in the final quarter of 2024. The average for the first quarter of 2025 is 67 persons (with an average of 20 children/youth with the 67).

Social Events

Discovery Bay Church members enjoy informal and church-organized social gatherings. Refreshments after the service do a lot to build community. A recent Shrove Tuesday Potluck Supper hosted at the Courtright's home and attended by some 45 adults and children has carried forward DBC's enjoyment of food, faith, and fellowship into this new season.

Finances

2024 income decreased by HK\$14,202 compared with 2023. (2023: HK\$862,942; 2024: HK\$848,740.) The Church Committee did not do a stewardship campaign in the interregnum but is making plans for a refreshed approach to giving and stewardship in 2025.

Youth Events in Community Hall

Frances Fong and Gerald Chua continue to serve as leaders for the twice monthly Youth Nite and Youth Sports Fellowship held in the DB Community Hall. This group meets from 6-9pm for games and fellowship. A snack (like pizza, sushi, etc.) is provided. Average attendance is 15 youth with accompanying adults.

Relationship with SKH Wei Lun Primary School

In 2023 Wei Lun requested a downsizing, inventorying, and transference of ownership for the supplies in the store room. After the initial upset caused by this request, the practical experience week in and week out has been just fine. We have what we need for our ministry and have proper access to the storeroom. Since Revd Courtright's arrival, special effort has been made on his part to refresh and reinvest in the church and Priest-in-Charge's relationship with Wei Lun and her leaders. Drew is on good terms with Principal Angela Lo and Superintendent Fr. Samuel Tang. Drew has been invited to participate in two school-wide events and looks forward to more engagements at Wei Lun.

Closing out the Interim Period

The Revd Sok Han Yong was thanked and celebrated and thanked for her service to DBC on Friday 13th December during the Church Committee meeting held at Peony Restaurant. The Dean was glad to have been able to visit DB approximately once per month and is thankful to other clergy, as well as John Tanner, for leading worship during 2024. On January 5th, the Dean installed Revd Courtright as the new Priest-in-Charge.

I (Drew) wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at DBC for your warm and generous welcome. I especially wish to thank Peter Von Heune Chan and Rachael Mellado for their leadership and hard work getting my family arrived and settled. I must also say how supportive Thomas Li, Executive Administrative at St John's Cathedral, has been throughout the transition. The Courtrights are very happy in DB and are excited for many years of fruitful ministry, by God's Grace.

b. Wardens

This was a year of both beginnings and continued traditions for Discovery Bay Church. The thorough search for a new priest-in-charge brought Drew Courtright and his wife Alice to visit Discovery Bay in late July. Andy and Moira Green hosted a potluck lunch, providing an opportunity to introduce the Courtrights to some of the congregants. In the meantime, Dean KK acted as our priest-in-charge from April 8, 2024-December 31, 2024. On October 20 Neils and Ann Kraunsoe, the founders of Discovery Bay Church, visited Discovery Bay,

reminiscing with congregants and greeting new ones. Throughout the year, social activities such as youth night, sports fellowship, and senior table tennis took place at the North Plaza Community Hall. Youth night participants created gifts for Box of Hope charity on October 25. The wardens and congregation prepared for the Courtrights' arrival. Peter meticulously attended to arrangements regarding the flat and transferring use of the golf cart. Nine Lessons and Carols service was celebrated on December 8. Christingles were prepared for the traditional Christmas Eve Nativity. Reverend Sok Han moved to the UK at the end of 2024. We are grateful for the stability and fellowship she nurtured. Father Drew Courtright was licensed and installed as our priest-in-charge on January 5th, 2025. The church has delighted in welcoming his family of five. Our Lent and Easter preparations included a Shrove Tuesday potluck on March 4, Lenten Bible study on Wednesday mornings, and a retreat in Sha Tin on March 14-15. The traditional walk to stations of the cross took place on a rainy Good Friday afternoon. Approximately 87 people attended Easter Day family service. Many thanks to those who served on the committee, including John Tanner, Jarod Vermette, Frances Fong Kling, Adrian King, Andrew Read, Andy Green, Gerald Chua, Deirdre Scott, Liz Starkey, and Reverend Sok Han Yong.

Peter Von Huene Chan Rachael Mellado

c. Treasurer

Report of the Treasurer to the AGM of DBC 11th May, 2025

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, stewardship giving to our church has been stable. In the 2024 calendar year, stewardship and donations were up by HK\$2,556 compared with 2023. (2023: HK\$776,182; 2024: HK\$778,738). The Church Committee did not do a stewardship campaign in the interregnum but is making plans for a refreshed approach to giving and stewardship in 2025.

We will take the opportunity now and on later Sundays to make people more aware of the possibility of giving to the church by bank standing order. This form of contribution is what we refer to as 'stewardship giving'. The amounts need not be large – most donations are around HK\$400 – HK\$500 per month and we are very grateful for them. It is the regularity of such monthly giving by standing order that is highly appreciated. It enables us to set a stable budget and pay our way as a daughter church of St John's Cathedral.

I conclude by thanking everyone for their generosity in their support of Discovery Bay Church and our mission to our community and the world in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Andrew Read Treasurer, Discovery Bay Church

d. Discoverers

Children Participating

We have offered a dedicated program for children most Sundays. We are currently operating with a single class – across all age groups. It can be challenging to address children from 4 months (admittedly an outlier) to 13 years in the same group, and make it interesting for all of them. For the most part, we achieve this by having a variety of activities that appeal to diverse age group. We also invite the older children to help the younger children – e.g. with craft projects. Recently, we have started to experiment with having the older children take a more robust role as assistant teachers.

The number of children who meet regularly for Discoverers has been growing, and we now regularly have around 20 participants + a number of parents.

In addition to the ‘formal’ Discoverers class, we have a handful of children who enjoy playing together on a mat at the back of the church. These are typically the children who are three years old or younger. Parent and helpers self-organize to support one another and help ensure the children enjoy themselves while keeping reasonably quiet. This is working well. As these children mature, they typically “graduate” from the play area to the Discoverers class, at a stage that suits the parents.

Highlights in the past year include:

- the creation of a spectacular mural (organized by Andrew) and
- a number of creative craft projects (organized by Rachael)
- the preparation for and participation in the Christmas service with nativity play and Christingle (orchestration by Jane and Josh)
- contribution to “Box of Hope” (organized by Frances).

Volunteers

We have a faithful group of volunteers, including several who have signed up recently. The current team of leaders who serve regularly consists of Andrew Read, Frances Fong, Rosario Paulina Matos, Rachael Mellado, Tor Mesoy, Anna Coles-Gale, Sky Morris.

In addition, a few people have indicated that they are prepared to serve if there is a special need.

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

With our current volunteer group, we are well placed if each person serves once a month. Still, we are keen to recruit more leaders, and any volunteers will be warmly welcomed into our team. 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. Some current team members filled a role as “assistants” for a few sessions to ensure a soft start before they started to serve as independent leaders.

In addition to the core team, Alex de facto serves as a team member. He is often the '2nd adult present' during the Discoverers' sessions.

There is good communication and collaboration among our volunteers. We enjoy sharing hints, resources and materials.

Plans for the future

Drew met with the Discoverers leaders on April 13th. Together we dreamed about the future.

Given the growing number of children at Discoverers and the large span of ages of these children, we decided to pursue the idea of running two parallel Discoverers classes. Some of the leaders have a preference for working with the younger children. As a result of our discussion, our sign-up sheet is now updated to allow leaders to sign up for the "Preschool Discoverers" or for the "Primary Discoverers" sessions.

We also explored the opportunity to get the older children to step up and take a more formal role as "assistants" to the leaders. Discussions to sign up these assistants are progressing well, with El, Abigail, Bonnie and Benjamin already expressing interest. Some of these have already served in a more robust role. Others are already planning to contribute, substantially, in scheduled, upcoming sessions.

Tor Mesoy

e. Music Team

The music team has grown this year, with the welcome additions of Lisa Tsang on piano and Liz Starkey on oboe helping ensure that the music for most Sunday services is supported by an ensemble of variously-combined guitar, brass, woodwinds, strings and percussion as well as piano. The hope persists that we may yet be able to establish a church choir!

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 to be a popular family event for the DB community. A number of church members also participated in some annual DB carols busking co-organised by Madi Price which raised HK\$3,800 for Bethune House.

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

f. 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

g. Refreshments

Refreshments continue to be an important and beloved part of fellowship. Congregants enjoy coffee, tea, children's beverages, cookies, snacks, and delicious home-baked goods such as hot cross buns on Easter! Wei Lun school has recently re-opened the snack bar downstairs, and the committee has discussed moving refreshments back to that location. However, the current arrangement provides protection from rain, heat, and humidity. We do miss the refrigerator for storing milk and juice. We are grateful to Wei Lun for use of the storage room. Many thanks to all who contribute home-baked goodies, store-bought snacks, and donations.

Rachael Mellado

h. Youth Ministry

Youth Night and Sports Fellowship is coming along nicely. The regular gatherings provide a venue that is warm and welcoming that can allow opportunities for sharing and community within these age groups and athletic interests, respectively. Attendance is at a minimum 15 youths with some nights having spikes in attendance. The age range of the participants is from 6 to 12. As a general practice, we request that an adult or designated guardian is present with them. Fr. Drew brings a welcome injection of experience and enthusiasm in running the youth activities. Occasionally, he can bring his army along to bolster the numbers. There have been recent challenges in the refreshments department due to the unfortunate closure of Paisanos. This has given rise to a variety to the providence moving forward. We can consider adding a banner to brand the activities as belonging to DB Church that can raise awareness leading to the Sunday worship services.

Senior Table Tennis is running smoothly every week on Saturdays. 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.

Gerald Chua and Frances Fong-Kling

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.
- c. New Nominations: Rese Hopkinson (People's Warden), Mark Li.

9. Vote of Thanks to All

10. Motion to Adjourn

11. Blessing