

27th June 2021

Dear Church Members,

I trust that you are keeping well in these unprecedented times in which we are living.

As you are aware and as discussed in the last Church Business meeting on 12th June 2021, we are experiencing some concerning deterioration in the structural condition of the church building. We are witnessing ever more increasingly widening gaps in the existing cracks, whilst we are also seeing new cracks appearing. The situation is growing steadily worse.

The Building Committee, have raised these matters with the South England Conference (SEC), and whilst we have received and appreciated visits from Pastor McKenzie and the President Pastor Osei, we have yet to receive any formal acknowledgement of the various issues raised.

Following a number of recommendations by the Building Committee to The Church Board, the Board met on the 27th morning, discussed and approved the recommendations.

To this end, with immediate effect as a precautionary measure, we will be closing the church building. We are patently aware of the distress this will cause in some quarters, but the safety of our members and the public is of paramount importance and it is that concern which has driven this decision.

We will await visits from the Structural Engineers appointed by the SEC to assess the state of the building and to provide their own assessment and recommendations. On receipt of these, the Church Board meet to will discuss and will report back to the membership.

We have agreed a number of actions which will be put into effect this week, which includes continuing our online services, amongst others.

I intend to convene a further Business meeting on Sabbath 3rd July at 3:30pm where you will have an opportunity to share your comments and views.

I ask for your patience and understanding in this difficult matter, and will keep you apprised of any new developments.

Pastor Sam Ngui