COVID-19 Update from the Vicar Interim Pattern of Services

Dear members,

Shalom! The government has announced the latest guidelines for congregational worship services, requiring all members attending a worship service of more than 100 pax to undergo pre-event testing. Even with pre-event testing, worship services will be limited to 250 pax.

In view of the logistics and costs involved in pre-event testing (a minimum cost of \$20 per test, to be done at an MOH-approved COVID-19 test provider, required before each service attended) and the spike in community cases in the past 2 weeks, we have decided to limit our congregations to 100 pax.

Having only 100 onsite worshippers at a time requires a change to our current pattern of services. Because our church premises are shared by our different language congregations, it is unfortunately necessary for us to suspend some of our worship services so that others may continue. We urge members who are unable to come onsite to worship with us online. The leaders of our different language congregations have agreed on this interim pattern of services:

Interim pattern of services

	In English	In Mandarin	In other languages
Wednesdays	12.30pm		
Saturdays	4.30pm*, 5.30pm	11.30am	2.30pm (Hokkien)
Sundays	7.30am, 11.30am	9.30am, 4.30pm	2.30pm (Myanmar)

^{*} The Saturday 4.30pm service will move to 4.00pm starting from 15 May.

The Tamil Service will be held over Zoom on Sunday, 8.30am.

The live-streaming of English services will continue on Saturday, 4.30pm* and Sunday, 7.30am. You are welcome to worship with us as a family via our <u>YouTube channel</u>.

As part of our safety measures, no onsite meetings in church will be permitted until further notice. We understand that these changes to worship services and onsite meetings will cause some inconvenience and disappointment. Our decisions were made after careful consideration, and we ask for your patience and understanding.

'Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity' (Psalm 133:1)! I encourage all of us to stand in solidarity with the nation by observing safe management measures and being socially responsible. Stay safe!

With blessings, Revd Canon Lewis Lew Vicar, St Andrew's Cathedral