# Clergy Discipline Measure 2003

## In the Clergy Discipline Tribunal – Diocese of Winchester

**Re the Reverend Dr Stephen Robert Sizer**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF**
**ANNE MARTIN**

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I, **ANNE MARTIN,** of The Cottage, Blacknest House, Sunninghill SL5 0PS, **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I make this statement on behalf of the Reverend Dr Stephen Sizer ("**Stephen**") in support of his Answer to a Complaint made against him by the Board of Deputies of British Jews ("**the Board of Deputies**").

**Biography**

2. I have been a member of Christchurch, Virginia Water since 2006, which is when I first met Stephen and listened to Stephen's strong, bible-based sermons almost every Sunday until he left, and never heard him say anything that was anti-semitic. I have been Church Secretary since 2017.

3. At Stephen's invitation I became Secretary of The Peacemaker Trust in 2017. I became aware of the excellent work The Peacemaker Trust was doing in Palestine and wanted to join to support Stephen in his mission for peace in Palestine.

4. The stated charitable purposes of The Peacemaker Trust are:-

   *(i) The advancement of the Christian religion particularly but not exclusively in countries where the Christian faith is a minority by any means as the Trustees shall in their discretion determine; and*

   *(ii) The promotion of religious harmony for the benefit of the public by promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths.*

5. The Peacemaker Trust undertakes projects in Palestine such as the planting of olive trees on the land of Palestinian farmers which is at risk of being taken by Israeli settlers. I joined a tree planting trip in 2019 along with Stephen and I know how valuable this kind of initiative is to the Palestinian people.

6. I know Stephen to be a widely respected Pastor whose voice people seek out, follow and respect. His overwhelming desire is I believe to follow the teaching of Jesus and help establish peace and reconciliation between Jews and Palestinians.

**Anti-Zionism**

7. It is quite wrong to conflate opposition to the Israeli Government's actions from building the separation wall, illegal settlements, house demolitions, imprisonment of young Palestinians and a litany of other such actions which are contrary to international law with anti-Semitism.

8. Where Stephen has spoken out against such acts I support him and if I had the same platform would be saying the same. I am by no means anti-Semitic and neither is Stephen, having never heard him say anything which is anti-Semitic. I do not believe he has any such tendency in his body.

**Statement of truth**

9. I believe the facts and matters in this statement to be true.

Anne Martin

ANNE MARTIN

Date: 1/10/2020