FORM 3 (Rules 6 and 17)

Clergy Discipline Measure 2003

Statement in support of a Complaint, or in support of an Answer to a Complaint

Box for use only by the Registrar of Tribunals	*Statement submitted by:* *Name of maker of statement:* *Date of statement:*

In the matter of the complaint

Enter the name of the complainant.
Enter the name of the member of the clergy about whom a complaint is made.

made by The Board of Deputies of British Jews

against: Rev Dr Stephen Sizer

My full name is: **Rev John Woodger**

My contact address, including postcode, is:

22 Clock Tower Court
Park Avenue
Bexhill on Sea
TN39 3HP

***Telephone & e-mail details are optional, but it could be helpful to the registrar and bishop to have them.*

**My telephone number is: 01424 552953

**My e-mail address is: woodger@talktalk.net

The matters in this statement to which I refer are all within my own knowledge, except where I indicate otherwise. If anything is not within my own knowledge then I set out the source of any matters of information and belief:

*You must explain in your statement how you know about each of the matters you describe, **unless** you know about them because you have **personally** seen or observed them.*

I have been appalled to read of accusations of anti-Semitism being levelled against Stephen Sizer by the British Board of Deputies. I have known, and worked with Stephen on pilgrimages and issues relating to Israel/Palestine for over 30 years, and am fully convinced that there is not an ounce of anti-Semitism in him.

Stephen is a scholar, speaker and author on the issue of Israel/Palestine and related subjects such as political Zionism. He has done a great service to inform Christians from a Biblical perspective, and has been invited to address audiences that few Christians would even consider going to. He has made enemies in the process, but that always happens in pursuit of truth.

Stephen is caught in the trap of speaking against Israel, and this of course is anathema to both Jewish and Christian Zionists, who equate criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. You and I know that that is a false equation, and mere ignorance. It's quite simple, you can't speak against Israel and get away with it. Stephen has been bold enough to do it - and thank God for that!

I have heard Stephen speaking on many occasions, as well as discussions with Jews and Zionists. He is always very gracious towards his opponents and has a clear understanding of their point of view - he is never aggressive. I trust you have had the opportunity to see his contribution to Channel 4's '4 Thought - Are Jews still persecuted in Britain today?

I hope you will continue to support Stephen, not only because his accusers are wrong, but because he has been a faithful parish priest over many years and now, in retirement, has permission to officiate in your Diocese. Stephen does not deserve this treatment. In no way is he anti-Semitic, and you must know that.

I believe the facts in my statement to be true. I am aware that the contents of this statement may be made public

You must sign and date this statement.

Signed: *John Woodger*

Dated: 24 November 2018