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: Rt Revd Michael Laurence Langrish

My contact address, including postcode, is:

39, The Meadows, Walberton, Arundel BN18 0PB

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

**My telephone number is: 01243 551704

**My e-mail address is: langrishm@btinternet.com

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 am deeply shocked by this further attempt by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to accuse The Revd Dr Stephen Sixer of anti-Semitic, statements, behaviour and beliefs. From my knowledge of, and acquaintance with, Dr Sizer over twenty years I have never known him to express a single anti semiotic view or sentiment. He has certainly very carefully critiqued particular expressions of political and religious Zionism and the impact of these, particularly in the context of the Middle East, where he has also shown himself to be aware of, and sensitive to, the negative how these have also affected ancient Jewish communities as well as others. He has also exercised the right of any citizen in a democracy to be critical of the actions of the current government of another country when these have compromised prospects for justice and peace. This he has done both courageously and responsibly in his advocacy for peace and justice in the Middle East. None of this constitutes anti-Semitism, something that I have frequently heard him explicitly condemn, along with other forms of racial and religious discrimination.

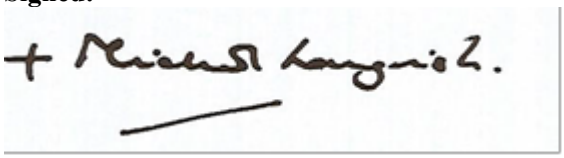
I am horrified that this attempt to make such a charge stick is supported by evidence already considered at the time of an earlier complaint brought under CDM by the Board. This material was carefully considered at the time and taken into account when the then Bishop of Guildford reached his conclusions. There can be no case for reconsidering the same material now. I am also both shocked and saddened that despite the undertaking given during the earlier reconciliation process that should they have further concerns, the Board of Deputies would raise these directly with Dr Sizer, in a spirit of dialogue and a search for mutual understanding, this they have failed to do. It is difficult not to feel that this latest action itself constitutes harassment and an attempt to close down fair comment on matters of vital importance in the context of today's Middle East, and the broader global geopolitical scene.

My experience of Stephen is of a godly, prayerful minister of the gospel, a faithful teacher and pastor of God's people, who seeks only to serve to the best of the ability his Lord, His Church and His Kingdom. This he has done as a loyal minister in the Church of England for the past 38 years. The suggestion by the complainant that Dr Sizer was forced to resign from the parish of Virginia Water because of his writing and speaking has no basis in fact. As a member of the International Board of Reference of the Peacemaker Trust I can testify to the fact that conversation had been going on with Stephen Sizer over a considerable period of time about the possibility of his leaving parish ministry to concentrate fully on the work that now forms the purpose of the Trust. The Vision of the Trust is of a world reconciled to God and where its people are at peace with one another. Those who support it and Dr Sizer's work aspire to be catalysts for peace-making, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed or reconciliation is needed. In the words of the prophet Micah - "They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Micah 4:3)
This sums up not merely the aim of his work, but the character of the man.

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:



Dated: 29th November 2018