



Interruption of liturgical worship or events by protestors¹

- In the event of an interruption by one or more protestors the officiating minister is in charge.
- Get the congregation to sit down, saying: **Please will you sit down quietly for a moment** (or a version of this as appropriate)
- (to the 'leading' protestor) **We will give you a minute or two to state your case. Please will you then move away so we can continue. You are welcome to join us for the remainder of the service and we are happy to talk with you further afterwards.**
 - If they agree that's OK.
 - If not and they continue their disruption – then ask a sidesperson² on duty to call 999. While waiting for the police ask the congregation to remain in their seats. If Wardens or sides people or stewards are present, they should maintain their roles as providing care for the whole congregation, but be available to provide assistance if needs be.

¹ It is an offence to disrupt a service in church under Section 2 of the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act 1860. The Vicar has authority over the churches of this United Benefice. After the event the Vicar should be informed, and he will liaise with the authorities about any consequential legal action

² The Sidesperson on duty needs to sit and keep eye contact with the officiating minister