

## HTHQ Demonstration/Disturbance policy

In the event of a demonstration or disturbance to a service the following steps should be taken:

1. Livestream to radio cut and recorded music played for radio listeners
2. All encouraged to sit and no response made to demonstrators
3. Demonstrators are allowed to continue speaking uninterrupted for a brief period of between one and two minutes
4. Once that time is up, the presiding minister informs them that they have been given time to say their piece and that the service now needs to continue. They are invited to take a seat quietly to join us for the remainder of the service or to leave the building if they prefer.
5. If they continue to disrupt the service, the presiding minister informs them that since they continue to disrupt worship the next step in our action plan is to contact the police to escort them out, and asks one of the wardens to phone 101 (police non-emergency number).
6. The service does not continue until disruptions have stopped. The organist may be asked to play softly in the event of a long wait.
7. We should expect the need for reassurance and pastoral care of the congregation following any such disturbance.

This policy is to be reviewed annually

Document History:

Version	Version date	Author/person responsible	Date reviewed by PCC	Summary of changes
1	August 2023	Emily Hockliffe Essex		
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