

2 0 1 5 G E N E R A L S Y N O D

# ROSIE HARPER

PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR VOTE!

✧ I was there ✧



**Women Bishops! It was so hard... but when, at long last, it happened I was there! (The photo is of that actual vote.) I have learned the ropes and would greatly appreciate your vote so that I can use my experience and make a valuable contribution to the next quinquennium.**

## **I feel I offer:**

An independent voice -not afraid to ask hard questions. In a recent speech for example, I asked why Lord Green, who was a senior leader during the most disreputable period in banking, was deemed a suitable chair for the rethinking of management and leadership in the church.

I am prepared to engage with the more difficult and uncomfortable issues and articulate what many of our people believe even if it differs from the 'party line'. I do this both at Synod and in the media.

## **The next 5 years?**

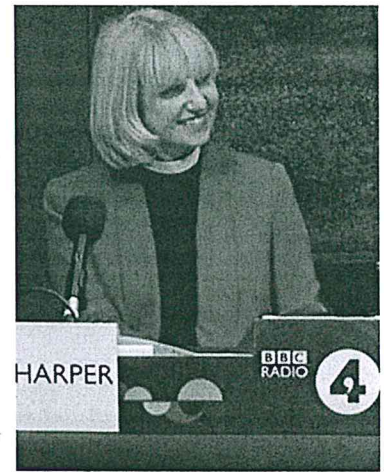
Much as we would like it to be otherwise there is no doubt that until we reach an honourable and equal integration of gay people in our community we will continue to lose credibility. It is very sad indeed that there are now young people who see the CofE as a toxic brand despite having high

We need to be alert, and to challenge moves away from being the national church towards a denomination. I treasure the breadth of the institution and its outward looking focus.

The Pope is moving the Catholic Church into a more consultative era. We need to do likewise. There have been recent examples of a handful of people, not necessarily bishops, devising policy and then issuing it as established CofE doctrine with scant regard for the beliefs and questions of the majority of its members. This means taking lay voices far more seriously, including in Parliament.

regard for Jesus Christ. This, they say, is because of the way we treat our own people.

There is a huge amount of energy from the centre being put into a renewal programme. I wish it well, but suspect that we will do far more for the church by being fully engaged in how the gospel we preach becomes real, enacted



*Any Questions. Radio 4. Nov 2013*

good news for people. For example by speaking and acting in support of the refugees in this current crisis, or by giving outstanding education to our children through superb church schools. There is more power in the real touch of the love of Christ than in an idea or a training course.

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