

## **GENERAL SYNOD 2013**

### **Motion No 10**

**Proposed by the Ven Robert Miller, Diocese of Derry**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

At its inception, the vision of the Hard Gospel in 2003 was that the Church of Ireland would take a positive leadership role in *addressing* the issues of sectarianism and *dealing* with difference.

The Hard Gospel Project was the Church of Ireland speaking the truth to ourselves, as well as to the world we live in. The hope invested in the Hard Gospel that we would strengthen the church for effective witness in a divided and changing society.

In 2009 the independent evaluator presented General Synod with a report on the Hard Gospel Project. In his opinion the Hard Gospel process should be long-term, mainstream, and enabled by the necessary structures, strategies and resources. An opinion Synod affirmed.

**Ten years later:** *the work of Hard Gospel Implementation Group (HGIG) will conclude on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013.*

As the work of the HGIG ends are we to draw two conclusions:

1. That the challenges of sectarian division and the threat of violence have disappeared from our community?
2. That we have nothing left to do in relation to sectarianism on this Island and within our Church?

Sectarianism is still a major issue on this island of Ireland.

I would urge Synod to affirm this motion to ask Standing Committee to meaningfully take up the challenge of the Hard Gospel, to ask ourselves hard questions and to champion the cause of reconciliation in our community – too much depends on it for us not to do so.