

Sunday 7 July 2024
8.15 p.m. to 9.45 p.m.

ORDER PAPER V

ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS (GS 2362 AND GS 2363)

20 Presentation under SO 107.

Note: the Business Committee has determined under SO 107(3) that this presentation should include an opportunity for questions.

The Ven Mark Ireland (Blackburn), pursuant to SO 105(6) to move a further motion arising out of Item 20 as follows:

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'That this Synod

- 1. Regret that the Annual Report of the Archbishops' Council does not refer to the relaunch of the National Burial Grounds Survey (NBGS) despite this being a significant piece of work in 2023;*
- 2. Welcome changes made to the NBGS since its previous launch, in particular that*
 - a. Atlantic Geomatics are no longer formally partnering with FamilySearch, an agency of the Mormons (Latter Day Saints)*
 - b. The financial offer to parishes has improved, saving parishes and estimated £1.5m a year in subscription fees*
 - c. The management of data under GDPR is much clearer, with the recognition is that the consent of each PCC is required;*
- 3. Express its deep concern about other outstanding issues, in particular*
 - a. Commercial use of the data - giving AG International Ltd copyright ownership of the*

- images collected and the right to sell this database to third parties for profit, which could well include the Mormon Church
- b. Data creep – the NBGS seeks to film all parish registers, not just burial records, including current Baptism registers
 - c. Safeguarding – baptism registers hold information about children, including material that is highly sensitive in the case of looked after children, vulnerable children whose address may not be known to a parent who is abusive;
4. Request Archbishops' Council to consult with the College of Archdeacons to address these issues, and request that parishes are not asked to sign up until this consultation has taken place.'
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