

GENERAL SYNOD
JULY 2024 GROUP OF SESSIONS
BUSINESS DONE AT 9.45 P.M.
ON SUNDAY 7TH JULY 2024

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

20 A presentation was given under Standing Order 107.

61 Under Standing Order 106(9) (further motions arising out of a report), the motion

‘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;
 - b) 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;
 - c) Data creep – the NBGS seeks to film all parish registers, not just burial records, including current Baptism registers;
 - d) 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.'

was carried.

The ARCHBISHOP OF YORK dismissed the Synod with a blessing.