

Planning for Religious Diversity in Wales: Engaging with Faith Communities

Dr Richard Gale
School of Geography and Planning
Cardiff University



Planning Aid **Wales**
Cymorth Cynllunio **Cymru**



Outline

- **Background:**
 - Engagement with faith groups & planners
 - Networks and knowledge exchange
- **Changing religious demography in Wales:**
 - Overall decline of Christian population
 - Growth of Minority groups (including Christians)
- **Changing relations / responding to faith groups:**
 - Overview of research and engagement work in UK
 - Key findings and patterns
- **The need for dialogue:**
 - Need for a dialogic approach to ensure inclusive placemaking
 - Co-production of planning solutions?

Background

- Project 'Planning for Religious Diversity in Wales' emerged out of the work by Faith and Place Network
- Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council between September 2014 – February 2016
- Aimed to address critical issues at the interface between faith, place and planning
- Based on dialogues at a series of events in London and Birmingham, comprising faith communities, local authority planners and planning consultants, central government officials and academics

Faith and Place Network parties

- **Faith groups**
 - Church Commissioners
 - Churches Together in England
 - Churches Together Netherlands
 - Evangelical Alliance
 - Faith Forum for London
 - National Church Leaders' Forum
 - Redeemed Christian Church of God
 - Southwark Diocese
 - Together for Berlin
- **Academics**
(practical theology, cultural & human geography, sociology of religion, planning, religious studies, politics)
- **Professional bodies**
 - E.g. Royal Town Planning Institute
- **Government**
 - Department of Communities and Local Government
- **Planners and planning consultants**
 - E.g. Southwark & Haringey & Hackney Councils
 - E.g. Howard Sharp & Partners
- **Other organisations**
 - English Heritage
 - Tate Modern
 - Makespace Architects

Planning for Religious Diversity in Wales

- **Faith groups**
 - Cytun / Churches Together in Wales
 - Churches Together in Cwmbran
 - Ahmadiyya Muslim Association
 - Presbyterian Church in Wales
 - Wales Baha’l Community
 - South Wales Jewish Rep Council
 - Sikh Gurdwara Cardiff
 - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 - interfaith Council for Wales
- **Academics**
(practical theology, human geography, planning)
- **Professional bodies**
 - RTPI Cymru
 - Planning Aid Wales
- **Government**
 - Planning Department, Welsh Government
 - Welsh Government Cross-Party Faith Group
- **Planners and planning consultants**
 - Swansea, Newport & Cardiff Councils
 - Vale of Glamorgan Council
 - E.g. Urban Prospects
- **Other organisations**
 - Welsh Religious Buildings Trust
 - Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Perspectives, Explorations, Futures

Faith and Pl
Bringing people together to inform fa

About Events Network Members Video

Perspectives



Faith Groups and the Planning System

Policy Briefing

AHRC Faith and Place network | October 2015
faithandplacenetwork.org



University of Roehampton
London

Arts & Humanities
Research Council

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL
CARDIFF

rk
Place network
th, place and planning

Projects and Links Bookings Contact Us

Event



Dual-language Wales Briefing

Faith Groups and the Planning System

Policy Briefing

AHRC Faith and Place network | July 2018
faithandplacenetwork.org



Grwpiau Ffydd a'r System Gynllunio

Nodyn Briffio Polisi

Rhestrwyth Ffydd a Lle AHRC | Gorffennaf 2018
faithandplacenetwork.org



Planning for religious Diversity in Wales

- Dual-language English-Welsh version of Briefing was produced in July 2016, in recognition of devolved planning in Wales
- Briefing distributed to all local planning authorities in Wales
- However, recognised that further participatory work on the model of the Faith and Place Network events needed to be undertaken
- Application submitted to Economic and Social Research Council in January 2018 to support series of 'knowledge exchange' events
- Focus on key centres of religious diversity in South Wales



Changing religious demography in Wales

Religious Growth & Decline in Wales, 2001-2011 (2001 & 2011 Censuses)

Religion	2001	2011	Change	% change
Christian	2,087,242	1,763,299	-323,943	-15.5
Buddhist	5,407	9,117	3,710	68.6
Hindu	5,439	10,434	4,995	91.8
Jewish	2,256	2,064	-192	-8.5
Muslim	21,739	45,950	24,211	111.4
Sikh	2,015	2,962	947	47.0
Other religion	6,909	12,705	5,796	83.9
No religion	537,935	982,997	445,062	82.7
Not stated	234,143	233,928	-215	-0.1

Growth and decline in religious populations, 2001-2011

- Most religious groups grew between 2001 and 2011
- Cross-tabulating religion and ethnicity shows important areas of inter-census change
- C. 300,000 overall decline in Christian population masks significant areas of growth for Christians of particular ethnic heritages – e.g.:
 - Caribbean Christians grew from 1,810 to 2,513 (38.8%)
 - African Christians grew from 1,662 to 7,406 (345.6%)
- Christians of mixed ethnic heritage also grew substantially in the inter-census period – e.g.:
 - Mixed White and Black Caribbean Christians increased from 3,526 to 5,198 (47.4%)
 - Mixed White and Black African Christians increased from 1,306 to 2,248 (72.1%)

Urban centres of religious diversity

- The geography of religious change in Wales is significant, with a strong urban South Wales focus
- Between them, Swansea, Newport and Cardiff account for 64% of the overall growth in non-Christian religions in Wales between 2001 and 2011



Changing relations between faith and planning









Responding to faith groups

Planning applications 2000-2011

- 149 from places of worship
- 60% from nBMCs
 - granted 24%
- 27% from historic churches
 - granted 55%
- Other faiths 7%



MINISTRIES
YOUR LIFE
BY MOBILE: 079 8004 1282

NATIONAL 6 18

TENNIS
FRIED CH


**MOUNTAIN OF FIRE
AND
MIRACLES MINISTRIES**
CAMBERWELL BRANCH

**THE KING IS INVITING
YOU TO BANQUET
COME AND JOIN US**
Times of Service:
Tuesday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Thursday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
1st & 3rd Friday of the Month
Night Vigil 7:15 pm - 9:30 pm
Contact: 079 8004 2048 - 079 8004 1470

ENTRANCE


**GETHSEMANE
EVANGELICAL**
A Place For Everyone Everywhere
Worship Times:
Tuesday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Thursday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Sunday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
1st & 3rd Friday of the Month
Night Vigil 7:15 pm - 9:30 pm
Contact: 079 8004 2048 - 079 8004 1470



Guide for faith premises in Southwark

2013

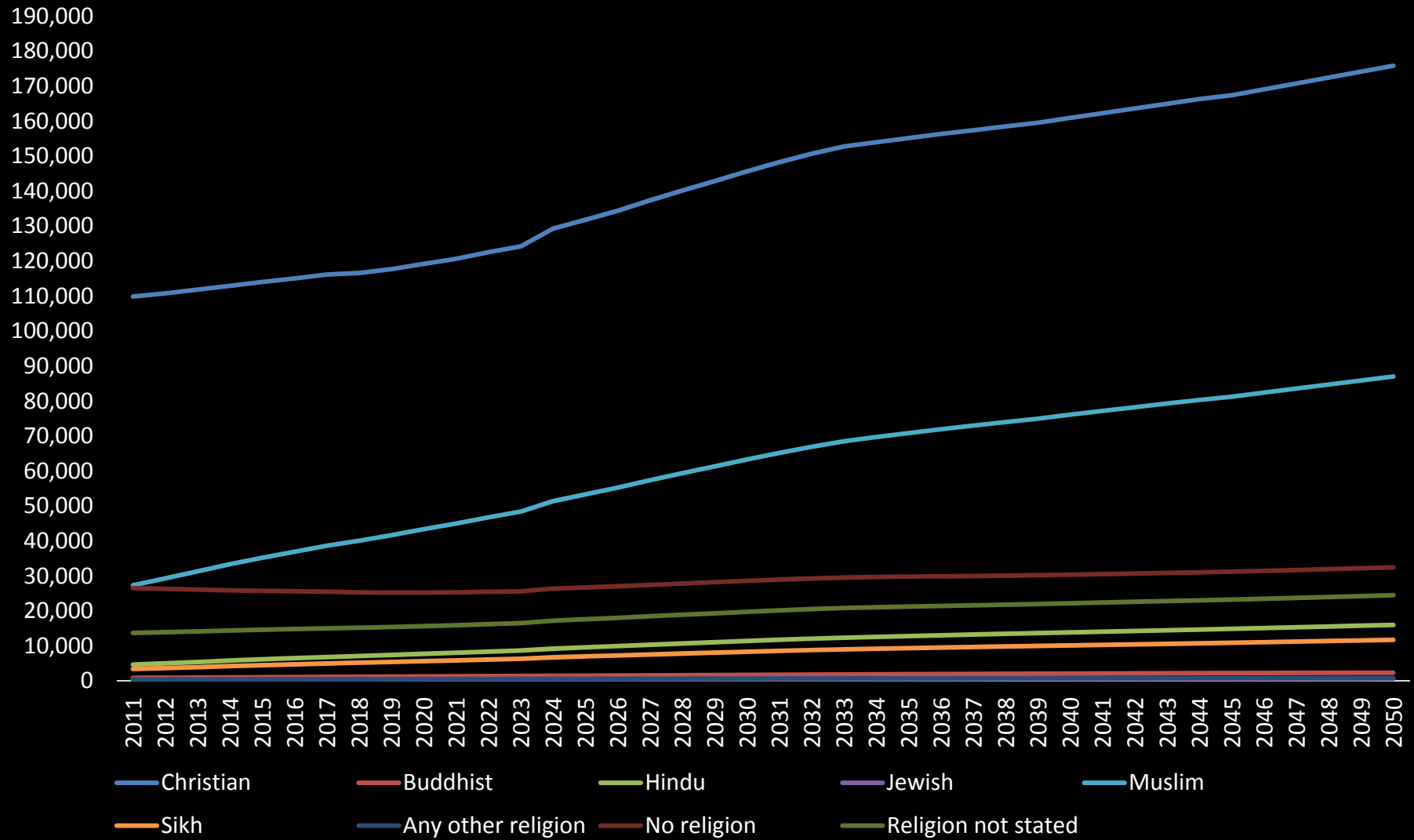
www.southwark.gov.uk



Planning for Current and Future Needs in Barking and Dagenham




Projected changes in religious populations in Borough, 2011-2050





The need for dialogue



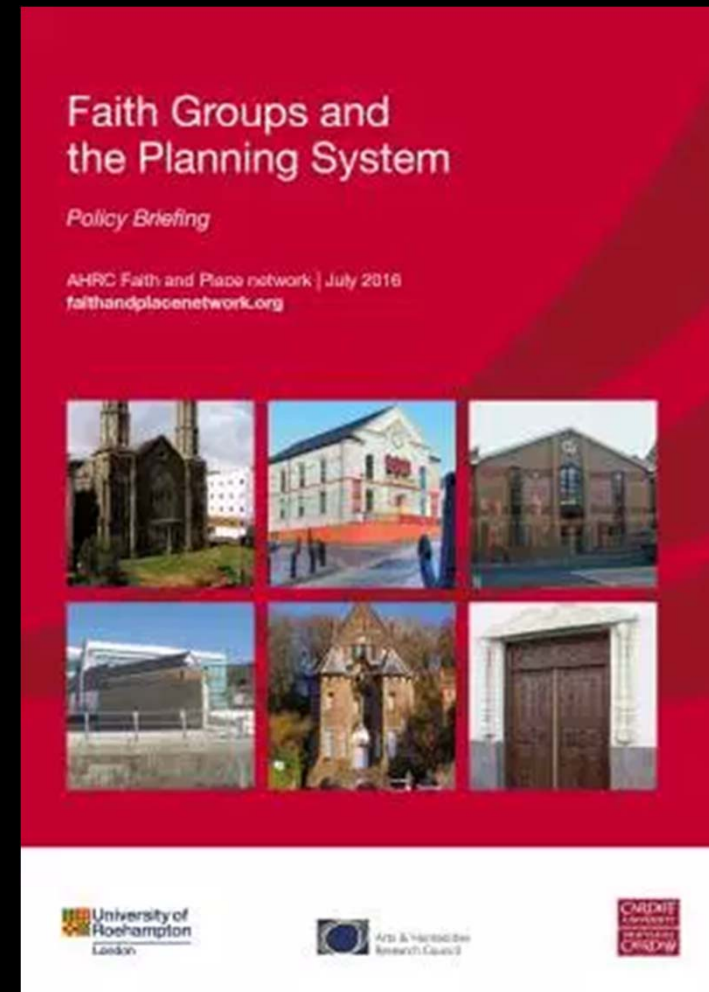
Planning authorities should develop a strategic and long-term approach to the provision of community facilities when preparing development plans. When considering development proposals planning authorities should consider the needs of the communities and should ensure that community facilities continue to address the requirements of residents in the area.

*Draft Planning Policy Wales, Edition 10, 3.103,
p57*

Briefing: Understanding One Another

Specific recommendations, including:

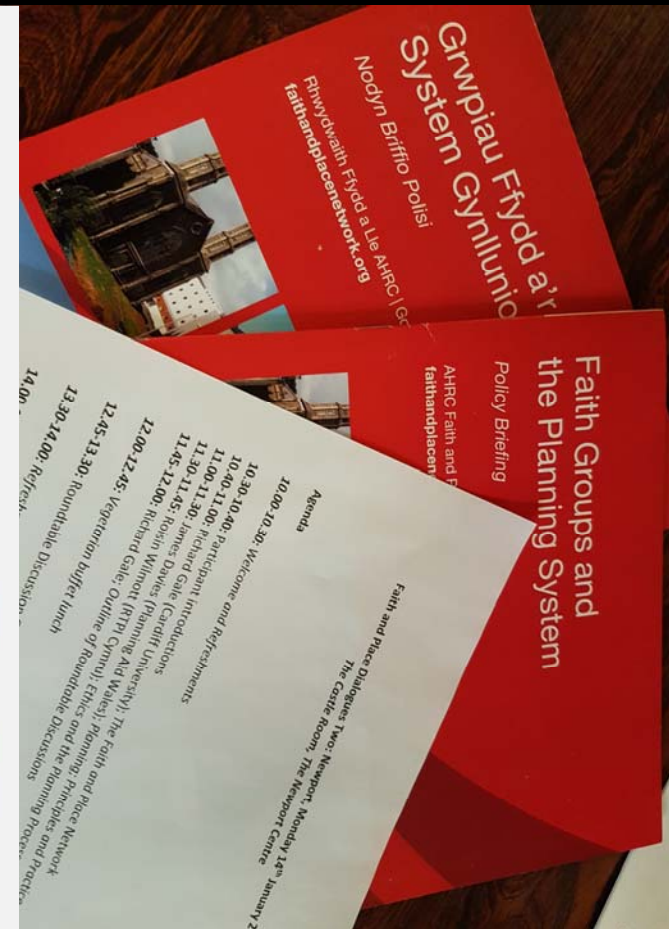
- Guidance for planners on how faith groups use space and guidance for faith groups on how to engage with the planning system.
- Local planning authorities to engage with both interfaith organisations and specific religious traditions.
- Faith groups to be active participants and to be actively encouraged to participate in planning policy and/or its implementation.



Wales faith & place dialogues

Planning Aid Wales supports Faith and Planning Dialogues

Home / News



Conclusion

- Key challenges facing faith groups and planning system in coming years
- Linked to increasing diversity resulting from natural population change, international and internal migration
- Also need to meet the challenges of rising populism and how this may be impacting local debates surrounding sites of worship
- What strategies might planners and faith groups adopt to meet these challenges?
- A 'dialogic' approach doesn't directly supply the answers but does open up a process towards them