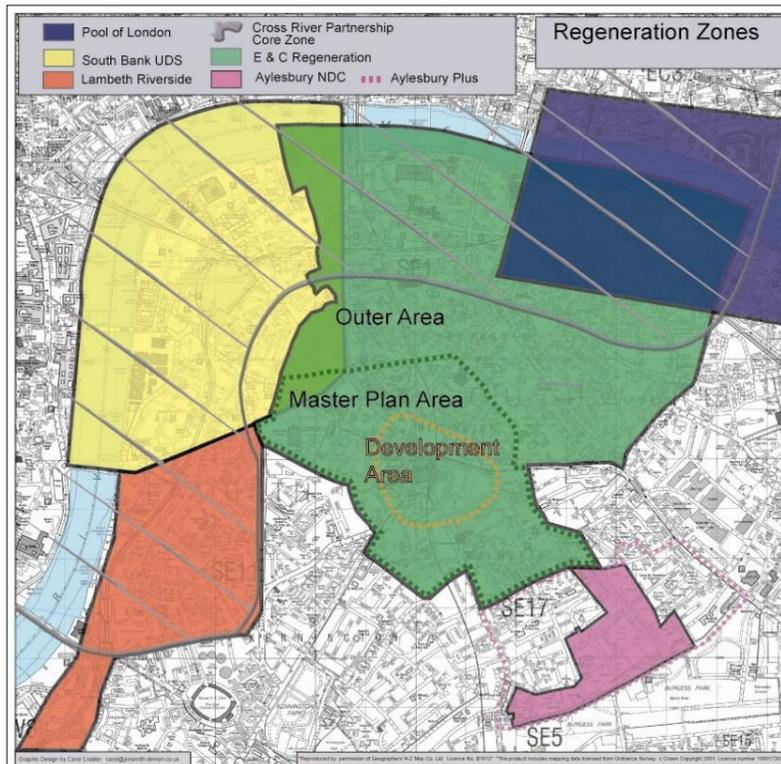


Regeneration in London South Central



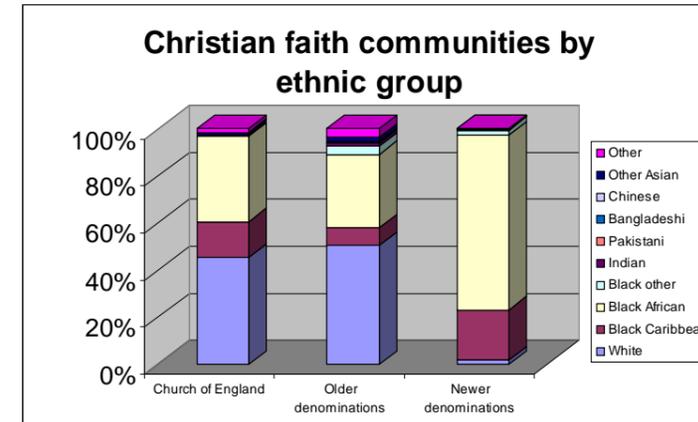
Regeneration

The tapestry of regeneration is a complex interweaving of central, regional and local government involvement in partnership with commercial developers, statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sector.

The South Bank regeneration is progressing steadily. Votes against transferring council housing stock to housing associations have meant a re-think in Vauxhall and Walworth. The ambitious Elephant & Castle redevelopment is being re-assessed. So long as the economy remains buoyant, the area should continue to attract investment, particularly along the riverside.

Projects to improve employment, educational attainment, health and much more are underway.

Some local people are yet to be convinced that regeneration will bring them any significant benefit.



Opportunities

Faith communities are being encouraged to join local and regional groups to participate in plans for local regeneration. Local Strategic Partnerships and the London Development Agency are both looking for informed and well-networked participation by the faith sector.

Recommendations

Faith Communities

- maintain local engagement & accessibility, encouraging social cohesion
- extend existing regeneration work through partnerships, negotiating adequate resources where necessary
- play a full part in Neighbourhood Renewal, extend existing networks and ensuring wide participation, especially by newer church denominations and other faiths, and ensuring faith representatives on the Local Strategic Partnerships are well informed and resourced
- recognise pan-London focus and engage with it by developing cross-river partnerships, playing a full part in GLA consultative bodies and other London groups
- use available channels to work with appropriate groups to call attention to the inequalities in London South Central, to share experiences with similar areas and to explore what it means to be a World City in the C21st

Churches

- work across ecclesiastical boundaries to maintain a lively and flexible response to the spiritual and other needs of a changing population, specialising and diversifying as appropriate
- explore alternative sustainable sources of finance, recognising new opportunities from tourism and the changing demographic profile of the area

Strategic Bodies

- resource & streamline ways of engaging the faith communities, supporting well-informed and active involvement, building on this and other research

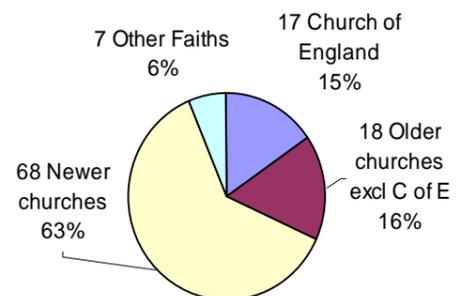
Southwark & Newington, Bermondsey and North Lambeth Deaneries

- bring together a pro-active team to take these ideas forward through a series of inclusive gatherings over the next three years, bringing in expertise and experience, resourced jointly by the faith communities themselves and the appropriate regeneration budgets

How many faith communities are there?

110 faith communities were mapped. About half the older church denominations are Church of England parish churches. There are many newer churches, often worshipping in the older churches' buildings or in community halls. Not all the major world faiths were found, but Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and Rastafarianism are all represented in the area. Most of the faith communities are engaged in activities which benefit the local community — a pioneering tradition stretching back **over a thousand years** in this part of London.

110 Faith Communities



How local is local?

- The number of local people attending faith communities at least monthly is equivalent to 20% of the population
- 7% of the local resident population attends a local faith community within 15 minutes' walk of home at least once a month
- Older church denominations tend to have their own buildings and staff who live locally
- Newer church denominations are looking for premises of their own

More information about this research project may be obtained from

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A research project, led by Southwark and Lambeth churches, to understand the needs of local people, to map current & future regeneration activity, to document the work of faith communities in their localities and to explore possible responses to expected change in the area. Funded by the Church Urban Fund, London Borough of Southwark, London Development Agency, Bridge Houses Estates Trust Fund and the Bishops of Southwark and Woolwich.