

# SAINT ANSELM'S SOUTHALL



**JULY 2016**

# PROFILE AND MISSION OF THE PARISH

**Southall** enjoys a diversity of communities from many faiths and ethnic groups and has attracted migrants since the beginning of the last century when local manufacturing industries began to develop

In the 1930s they came from the depressed coal mining areas of South Wales and Durham as well as from the poorer rural regions of Southern Ireland.

West Indian migration to Southall began in the late 1940s and continued until the 1960s, mainly from Antigua, St Lucia, Grenada and Dominica.

Punjabi migration began in the 1950s as Sikhs from India took up the offer of jobs at Woolf's Rubber Company, Nestle and Lyons Food-Processing plants and other local industries.

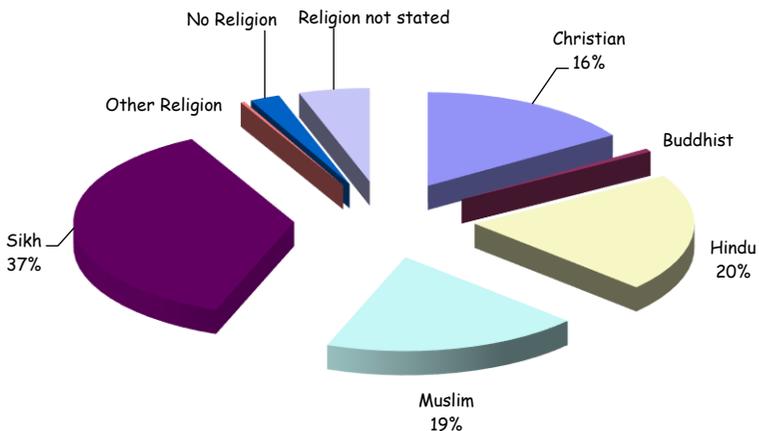
The 1970s saw the arrival of new communities from Kenya and Uganda.

The 1990s and 2000s saw the arrival of new communities from Somalia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Eastern Europe.

This present decade has seen Goan migration to Southall

The various communities settling in Southall were characterised by the religious diversity they brought to the area.

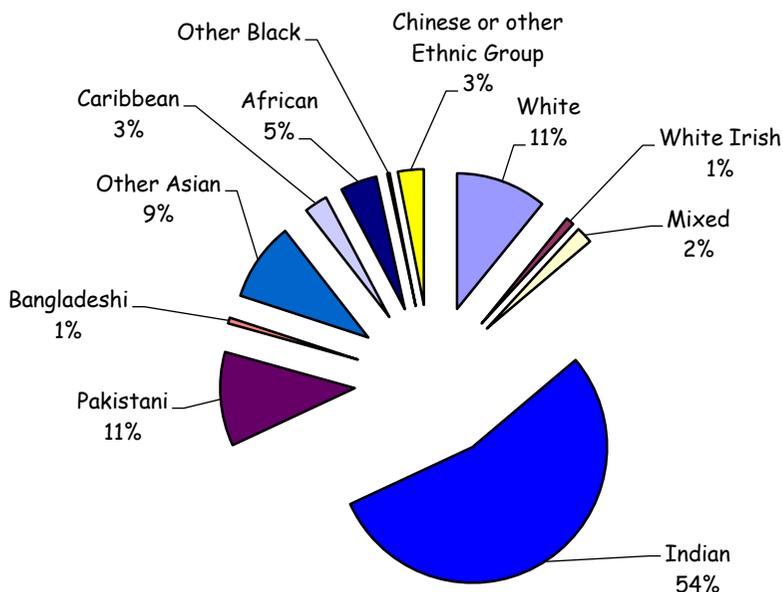
## Religion



**St Anselm's Parish** in Southall is a multi-cultural Catholic community in West London which seeks to witness to its faith in an area of some deprivation and considerable cultural and religious diversity. Over the past three to four years Sunday Mass attendance has grown from 800 to up to 2500. Apart from a wide variety of Christian churches, within the bounds of the parish are some ten Sikh gurdwaras, four mosques, three Hindu temples, and a Buddhist vihara, not to mention many more informal placers of worship. In addition to all the normal pastoral needs of a large, thriving Catholic community - liturgy and prayer, catechesis and instruction, pastoral visiting and support - St Anselm's needs to attend to the special demands of life in such a pluralist environment. The presence of large communities of faith, notably but not exclusively from the Indian sub-continent, should be seen as an opportunity not just to work for the common good of all the people of this town but in so doing to deepen our faith and to learn more about the ways of God with human beings. As the 2000 declaration

from the CDF, *Dominus Iesus*, puts it:  
'Interreligious dialogue, which is part of the Church's evangelising mission, requires an attitude of understanding and a relationship of mutual knowledge and reciprocal enrichment, in obedience to the truth and with respect for freedom'. (DI 2)

### Ethnic Groups of Southall



St Anselm's Parish, Southall is a wonderfully vibrant, warm and welcoming community, bursting and teeming with life in the highest ethnic minority area in the country (census 2001). If multi-cultural churches may be said to be a taste of heaven on earth St Anselms is a very good living example. 89% of the Southall population belong to ethnic groups other than white British. 76 % of the population belong to Asian ethnic groups with 55% being Indian. The parish mirrors the ethnic diversity of the wider population and is perhaps rather conspicuous if not unique amongst churches and other faith communities in the pronounced way in which it does so. There are monthly Sunday Masses in Malayalam, Urdu, Konkani and Tamil and the parish goes out of its way to welcome the different ethnic chaplaincies drawn to this place. There is a Sinalese community and many other Asian communities, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Punjabi. There is also a lively Afro-Caribbean community in the parish. There is the remnant of a once strong Irish community. An aging community, it nonetheless,

continues to contribute very positively and generously to parish life.

Southall is very often called 'Little India', but it is so much more than that! Old Southall is now known as 'Little Mogadishu' . We have a very visible Somalian community on our door steps. Other more recent arrivals in Southall are Afghans, Poles and Russians and so on.

The Southall parish has also over the years welcomed large numbers of traveling families who seem to feel at home and at ease here and able to be themselves.

At the heart of our ministry is a constant challenge to bring people together from many different strands, backgrounds and ethnicities. To reach out to the whole parish community and encourage a spirit of openness and welcome and awareness of the need to remember that we are a community of communities and be truly Catholic. At the same time there remains the responsibility to galvanise the Catholic community in Southall to

act in its defence, give it a voice, confidence, self-respect and determination to project its identity that it may enter peacefully into dialogue with people from other faith communities.

**LIVING IN SOUTHALL:** Southall has 19,623 households. A high proportion of these households are living in terraced housing (41% compared to 30% for Ealing), semi detached housing (25% compared to 24% for Ealing) and detached (5% compared to 4% for Ealing). The levels of owner occupation in Southall are higher than for the borough as a whole (67% compared to 63%). The proportion of households renting from the council is similar to the average for the borough at 12%, however renting from private landlords is lower (11% compared to 16% for Ealing). Around 28% of households in Southall are overcrowded, which is higher than the Ealing average of 20%.

Lots of people are living in small cosy terraced houses, some very comfortably. Norwood Green is a very pleasant and attractive section of the parish. Some families are living in very difficult

circumstances - 4 or 5 in a room. Even then they are amazingly hospitable and welcoming.

Many single people, men and women, who have arrived here recently, experience the challenge of multiple occupancy. For some this proves a very difficult experience.

**PEOPLE IN NEED:** In terms of multiple deprivation, 13 areas within the wards of Norwood Green, Dormers Wells, Southall Broadway and Southall Green feature within the top 20% most deprived areas in England. If the measures of deprivation are considered individually, areas within Southall appear within the top 5% most deprived in the country in terms of income deprivation, crime and barriers to housing and services.

Many people, (asylum seekers, migrant workers - legal and illegal, young people on student visas, unemployed, low paid and exploited workers, domestic violence) come to the door of the Rectory for immediate assistance and help with

their job prospects, housing problems and day to day survival etc. Dealing with this is quite challenging and time consuming. Ministering in Southall requires one to be willing to give time to the poor and marginalized and to be sympathetic towards their difficulties. It requires one to have a firm determination and be able to deal with the many social problems that arrive at our door. It demands a willingness to give the time to listen patiently and draws one to offer a loving pastoral and practical care for individuals in real and crying need. We try to give as much practical help as we can.

### **Future of St Anselm's Parish**

Within Southall is the largest potential brown-field site in West London (a former gasworks) in the process of residential re-development. It is expected to increase the population by around 15000 in the next decade.

We will cherish our vibrant, warm and welcoming community in our prayer and in the liturgy. We will seek to build it up. We will strive to show a personal care and concern for each and for all.

We will continue to celebrate life and faith and hope and share our joys and sorrows in a constantly changing situation

We will seek ways of contributing more energetically and imaginatively in Southall particularly in serving the poor and vulnerable and powerless.

In particular we will help support, develop and sustain Hope for Southall Street Homeless.

We will strive to become a more missionary parish and support efforts to create a vigorous Churches Together in Southall and let the light of the Gospel penetrate the life of the wider community.

We shall continue to explore the teaching of St Ignatius of Loyola on Prayer and Life

We will actively support efforts the Faiths Forum for Southall and work for the common good of all the people of Southall.

We shall develop our ministry to Youth and Young Adults

We shall do our best to harness the potential of our buildings for apostolic purposes.

We will grow stronger through active lay leadership and involvement in the community. We will make this happen by active encouragement and invitation and by providing training. The parish will encourage parishioners to undertake serious training for lay ministry.

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