LABOUR DOES DO GOD AFTER ALL

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A few years ago, Alistair Cambell famously stated of the labour government "we don't do God". Well, apparently they do now! Stephen Timms a government minister said the following in a recent speech:

> *'What I want to argue today is that the faith communities offer a rich resource of hopefulness which, in progressive politics, we need to tap into and draw upon.Â The faith communities have not always been seen as the natural allies of progressive politics.Â Indeed, in the United States, there has been a powerful alliance between Christian organisations and conservatism.Â We saw that alliance loosening with the election of Barack Obama.*
>
> *'Faith communities have a great deal to offer us, not least in their resource of hopefulness, as we build a new politics based on hope to respond effectively to the challenges we face.Â They can form the basis for a broad coalition of hope.*
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> *'There is a twofold challenge here.Â A challenge to progressive politicians to show they recognise faith-based perspectives and contributions as valid and mainstream, rather than irrelevant and marginal.Â That means recognising that faith cannot be relegated to the private sphere â€“ and as IPPR has already argued â€“ addressing faith literacy in central and local government, so that officials can deal intelligently with input from faith communities.Â And it means thinking hard about identity, recognising the part faith plays, and getting beyond â€˜We donâ€™t do Godâ€™.*

You can read the full speech here.

I found this information on Ruth Gledhill's blog. She also mentioned in passing that Tear Fund have reported church going in the UK to have picked up by 25%. I looked at the Tear Fund website but can't find any information on this. If anyone else knows anything, please let me know via the comments.