

Chapel Statistics

2016

Oxford, Cambridge, Durham

Research and Statistics
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ

Tel: 020 7898 1547

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Email: statistics.unit@churchofengland.org

Twitter: [@cofestats](https://twitter.com/cofestats)

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Executive summary

56 college chapels in the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham were asked about their activities during 2016. Responses were received from 46 of these chapels.

Usual Sunday and Midweek Attendance

- Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported a usual Sunday attendance during term time of nearly 3,000 people during 2016, of whom just over half were students. A usual midweek attendance during term time of just over 4,000 people was reported, of whom nearly 30% were students.

Worshipping community

- Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported a total worshipping community of just over 4,600 people. The majority were aged 18-69 years (79%).

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Funerals

- There were 95 baptisms in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels during 2016. Of those who were baptised, 40% were infants under 1 year old.
- There were 73 confirmations in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels during 2016
- There were 167 marriages and 30 services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels during 2016.
- There were 36 funerals were held either in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels or conducted by members of the chapel ministry team at a crematorium/cemetery during 2016. A further 55 memorial services were also held in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels.

Choral traditions

- Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported having a total of 53 choirs. Chapels reported having 85 organ students/scholars, of whom 60% were male. There were slightly more women (593) than men (550) regularly singing in college chapels. Chapels reported having 154 child choristers, of whom 70% were male.

Christmas, Easter

- The majority of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels do not have services at Easter and Christmas. The two chapels reporting Easter services had a total attendance of 815 people. The four chapels reporting Christmas services had a total attendance of just over 2,600 people.

Special services

- 4,853 people attended Commemoration of Benefactors services during 2016. Just over 4,400 people attended graduation or leavers' or end of year services. An additional attendance of 3507 people at 'other services' was reported.

Contents

Executive summary.....	1
Introduction	3
Acknowledgements	3
Usual Sunday and Midweek Attendance; Worshipping community	4
Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Confirmations, Marriages, Funerals.....	5
Choirs and choral traditions	6
Christmas, Easter and other services	6
Methodology	7
College Chapel Survey: January to December 2016.....	8

Introduction

Data presented in this report were collected from the 2016 Chapel survey, which took place in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham University college chapels. The aim of the survey and this report is to build up a picture of the valuable contribution chapels make locally and to the national church. These data will help to highlight the activities taking place in these chapels and to act as a starting point for understanding how chapels contribute to local and national worship. It is recognised that chaplaincies of many different types – in universities, prisons, hospitals, schools, and elsewhere – have important roles to play in their communities; this work with Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham University college chapels is only a starting point for understanding the wider role of chaplaincies.

The survey was sent to all 56 college chapels. 46 responded, giving an overall response rate of 82%. No estimation has been attempted for chapels that did not respond, so the totals presented may understate the full scale of the activities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham University college chapels.

College chapels were asked to report on many different things, including the number of baptisms, thanksgivings, marriages and funerals carried out in their chapel; usual midweek and Sunday attendance during term time (based on either an 8 or 9-week term); worshipping community; choral and musical traditions; Easter, Christmas and Advent service attendance.

This is the second time a chapel survey has been conducted with these three universities, the first being in 2014.

The survey questions can be found at the end of this report.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to those chaplains and other members of staff and volunteers who completed the College Chapels survey and to The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones of Merton College, Oxford and Revd Duncan Dormor, former Dean of St John's College, Cambridge for their continued support for the College Chapel Survey.

Usual Sunday and Midweek Attendance; Worshipping community

Table 1: Usual Sunday attendance, 2016

	Total	Max	Min	Number >0
Students	1,685	65	15	40
Adults (16 years old and over, not students)	1,145	161	3	39
Children/young people (under 16 years old)	151	30	1	15

Table 2: Usual midweek attendance, 2016

	Total	Max	Min	Number >0
Students	1,147	86	1	38
Adults (16 years old and over, not students)	2,752	1,870	1	35
Children/young people (under 16 years old)	185	40	1	11

Table 3: Worshipping community, 2016

	Number of people
Children (Age 0 - 10)	145
Young people (Age 11 - 17)	218
Adults (Age 18 - 69)	3,686
Adults (70+)	639
Total	4,688

Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported a usual Sunday attendance during term time of nearly 3,000 people during 2016. Of those attending, just over half were students. Adults aged 16 years and over (other than students) accounted for nearly 40% of all usual Sunday attendance, while those aged under 16 just 5%.

Note: Usual Sunday attendance information was provided by 43 chapels.

Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported a total usual midweek attendance of just over 4,000 people. Of those who were reported nearly a third were students, 67% were other adults aged 16 years and over and just over 5% were under 16 years of age.

Note: Usual midweek attendance information was provided by 41 chapels.

Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported a total worshipping community of 4,688 people. The majority, perhaps unsurprisingly, were aged 18-69 years (79%), while children and young people each accounted for less than 5%. On average, just over a fifth of the college student body are part of the worshipping community.

Note: Worshipping community information was provided by 44 chapels.

Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Confirmations, Marriages, Funerals

Table 5: Baptisms and Thanksgivings, 2016

	Total	Number>0
Infants (<1 year)	42	26
Children (1-12 years)	31	15
Youth/adult (13+)	23	17

Table 6: Confirmations, 2016

	Total	Number>0
Children (<12 years)	30	4
Youth/adult (13+)	43	21

Table 7: Marriages, 2016

	Total	Number>0
Marriages in chapels	167	39
Services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages	30	20

Table 8: Funerals, 2016

	Total	Number>0
Funeral services held in chapels	18	13
Memorial services (but not a funeral) held in chapels	55	29
Funerals at a crematorium or cemetery	18	14

38 Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported a total of 95 baptisms during 2016. Of those who were baptised, 40% were infants under 1 year old. There was only one thanksgiving reported during 2016, for a child under 1 year old.

There were 73 confirmations in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels during 2016.

There were 167 marriages and 30 services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels during 2016.

There were 36 funerals were held either in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels or conducted by members of the chapel ministry team at a crematorium/cemetery during 2016. A further 55 memorial services were also held in Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels.

Choirs and choral traditions

Table 9: Choral and music traditions, 2016

	Total	Number >0
Total number of choirs	53	44
Number of organ scholars/students	85	41
Number of regular adult/student choir members	1,143	44
Number of child choristers	154	8

Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels reported having a total of 53 choirs.

Chapels reported having 85 organ students/scholars.

Of adults/students regularly singing in college chapels there were slightly more women (593) than men (550). Chapels reported having 154 child choristers, of whom 70% were male.

Christmas, Easter and other services

Table 10: Advent and Christmas carol service attendance, 2016

	Total	Max	Min	Number >0
Advent and Christmas carol services	19,477	3,208	40	42

Table 11: Attendance at other services, 2016

	Total	Max	Min	Number >0
Commemoration of Benefactors	4,853	942	30	35
Graduation/leavers'/end of year service	4,428	453	30	35
Other	3,507	540	27	20

The majority of Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham college chapels did not hold services at Easter or Christmas in 2016. The two chapels reporting Easter services had a total attendance of 815 people. The four chapels reporting Christmas services had a total attendance of 2,630 people.

19,477 people attended Advent and Christmas carol services during 2016.

4,853 people attended Commemoration of Benefactors services, and 4,428 people attended graduation or leavers' or end of year services during 2016.

Other special services reported in 2016 included: All Souls Requiem; Taize Prayer; Lent readings; Remembrance and Epiphany Carol Services.

Methodology

Data presented in this report were collected via the 2016 Chapel survey, which was completed by Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham University college chapels. This is the second time the survey has been conducted with all three universities, the first being in 2014. The survey aims to build a more comprehensive picture of the valuable contributions chapels make to local and national worship. The survey was sent to all 56 college chapels using Survey Monkey 2017. 46 college chapels completed the survey giving a response rate of 82%.

The survey was developed with the guidance and advice of The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones of Merton College, Oxford and Revd Duncan Dormor, former Dean of St John's College, Cambridge.

Chapels were asked to report on many different aspects of chapel life including:

- Baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals
- Usual Sunday and Midweek attendance
- Worshipping community
- Choral traditions
- Christmas, Easter and other services.

For the first time college chapels were asked to report their 'worshipping community', which is asked of other Church of England churches as part of their annual Statistics for Mission return (<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/research-and-statistics/key-areas-research#church-attendance-statistics>). For the purposes of this survey, a chapel's worshipping community was defined as those people who attend the chapel regularly, for example at least twice a term, or would attend if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence.

While many figures in this report have been rounded, totals, percentages and averages were calculated before rounding occurred. Hence row and column totals will not always agree exactly with the sum of the stated amounts.

No estimation has been attempted for chapels that did not respond, so the totals presented may understate the full scale of the activities of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham University college chapels.

College Chapel Survey: January to December 2016

University: _____
College: _____
Anglican or Ecumenical? : _____
Other (please specify) : _____

Baptisms, thanksgivings and confirmations

How many baptisms were held in your chapel during 2016? Please include members of your chapel or college community who were baptised at the University Confirmation service.

Infants (<1 year) : _____
Children (1-4 years) : _____
Children (5-12 years) : _____
Youth/adults (13+): _____

How many thanksgivings for the gift of a child were held in your chapel during 2016?

Infants (<1 year) : _____
Children (1-4 years) : _____
Children (5-12 years) : _____
Youth/adults (13+): _____

How many people were confirmed in your chapel during 2016? Please include members of your chapel or college community who were confirmed at the University Confirmation service.

Children (under 12 years) : _____
Youth/adults (13+): _____

Marriages

Please state the total numbers of couples married in the chapel and of couples for whom a service of prayer and dedication after civil marriage was held in the chapel.

- 'Marriages' - are of couples newly married.
- Prayer and dedication of marriage' - are of couples for whom a service of blessing (after civil marriage) was held in the chapel and does not include the renewal of vows.

Marriages: _____

Services of prayer and dedication after a civil marriage: _____

Funerals

For this section please provide the number of funeral services (including those held on behalf of your chapel at a crematorium or cemetery) and memorial services held at your chapel during 2016.

In each case include all funerals conducted on behalf of the chapel by any minister including readers, stipendiary clergy, non-stipendiary clergy and retired clergy.

Number of deceased for whom a funeral service was held at your chapel during 2016 : _____

Number of deceased for whom a memorial service (but not a funeral) was conducted at your chapel during 2016: _____

Number of deceased for whom a full funeral service was conducted by a member of your chapel ministry team at a crematorium/cemetery during 2016, excluding committal only and burial of ashes only : _____

Usual Attendance – on a Sunday and midweek during term time

This section asks about the total number of services and usual attendance on a Sunday and midweek during term time. Attendance figures should include all clergy, choir members, servers etc. and all people attending should be counted whether or not they are regular members of the congregations. Persons attending more than one service in the chapel on a Sunday or midweek should, as far as possible, be counted only once. (Please note that midweek service count excludes Sunday services)

Please enter separately the number of students and 'others' attending Sunday or midweek services. If this is not possible then please enter the total number in the 'TOTAL' box provided.

- **'Students'** - Anyone who is enrolled or attends classes at higher education including college or university.
- **'Adults'** - Anyone 16 years and over and who is not a student.
- **'Children and young people'** - Anyone under 16 years

Usual number of Sunday services provided during term time

Students: _____

Adults (16 years old and over) : _____

Children/young people (under 16 years old) : _____

TOTAL: _____

Usual number of midweek services provided during term time

Students: _____

Adults (16 years and over) : _____

Children/young people (under 16 years old) : _____

TOTAL: _____

Worshipping community

The following question is about your "worshipping community" at the end of 2016. Worshipping community includes any person who attends your chapel regularly, for example at least twice a term, or would attend if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence. Please include all congregations in your chapels.

Do not include visitors e.g. holiday makers, baptism parties etc.

Do not include people who left the chapel earlier in the year and are not part of the worshipping community at the end of 2016.

Please complete the boxes, as far as you can. If there is no-one in that category, please write "0". If the age groups of the worshipping community are unknown, please write "unknown" and enter the total figure only.

How many people are in your "worshipping community" at the end of 2016?

Children (Age 0 - 10) : _____

Young people (Age 11 -17) : _____

Adults (Age 18 - 69) : _____

Adults (70+): _____

Total: _____

Please estimate the proportion of the college student body that is part of your worshipping community

Choirs

This sections aims to further understand the choral traditions of the chapel, including choristers and choral scholars.

Please enter separately the number of adult/student choir members, organ students/scholars and child choristers you had at your chapel on the **31st December 2016**. If this is not possible then please enter the total number in the 'TOTAL' box provided.

Please provide further details in the comment box below if you have two or more chapel choirs.

Please provide the total number of choirs who sing in the chapel.

Number of organ students/ scholars.

Female: _____

Male: _____

TOTAL: _____

Number of regular adult/student choir members (choral scholars, volunteers & lay clerks).

Female (excluding organists) : _____

Male (excluding organists) : _____

TOTAL: _____

Number of child choristers.

Girl choristers: _____

Boy choristers: _____

TOTAL: _____

If you have two or more chapel choirs please provide further details about numbers etc.

Easter and Christmas 2016

This section includes questions to further understand chapel attendance during Easter and Christmas. We are aware that not all college chapels have services at this time but if you did please answer the following questions.

For **communicants** please enter the number of communicants on Easter Day (including those at vigil services held on Easter Eve) and at any service (day or evening) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Chaplains and other ministers who took communion should be included. If possible, each person should only be counted once even if they took communion at two separate services.

For **worship attendance** please enter the total number of people that attended worship over the same periods. Please include all people: communicants and those that did not take communion; adults, children and young people; clergy and laity. However, as far as is possible, each person should only be counted once even if they attended more than one service.

Number of communicants at service(s) on Easter Day and vigil service on Easter Eve. : _____

Total number, including communicants, attending worship at service(s) on Easter Day and vigil service on Easter Eve. : _____

Number of communicants at service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. : _____

Total number, including communicants, attending worship at service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. : _____

Special Services and highest attendance at Chapel during 2016.

For this section please tell us the number of people who attended Advent & Christmas carol services, Commemoration of Benefactors and Graduation/leavers/end of year services at your chapel. If you had a high attendance for an additional special service please use the 'Other' box provided.

Advent & Christmas carol services

Total attendance: _____

Commemoration of Benefactors

Total attendance: _____

Graduation/leavers/end of year service

Total attendance: _____

Other

Service Type: _____

Total attendance: _____

What was the highest attendance at any service at the Chapel during 2016?

Total attendance: _____

Other events: number of other events (not services) held in the chapel (for example, concerts, conferences, meetings).

Further Comments: Please include any further information you think would be useful e.g. if certain attendance figures are unusual or we should be contacting someone else for this information.

Name: _____

Office: _____

Email address: _____