This data comes from the first collection of statistics from Oxford Chapels and aims to build up a picture of the valuable contribution Oxford Chapels make locally and to the national church. Oxford chapels hold a range of regular and special services and the choral traditions in Oxford chapels not only enrich worship for those attending in Oxford, but are also building up the choral traditions we enjoy nationally. This data will enable us not only to appreciate our chapels, but crucially act as a starting point for monitoring how the church might change in the future. We hope that this information will be of interest to you locally as a means of understanding and monitoring patterns in your chapels. Nationally this information will help us to gain a more accurate and full picture of the impact of the Church of England, adding an important facet to the information we currently collect from parish churches, Cathedrals and more recently Cambridge colleges.

For more information regarding the data collated, please refer to the returns form at the back of this report. The form was sent to 28 college chapels in Oxford and 15 responded (Christ Church, Exeter, Jesus, Keble, Lincoln, Magdalen, Merton, New, Oriel, Queens, St Peter’s, Trinity, University, Wadham, Worcester), all of which reported being Anglican. Statistics reported are based on just those reporting a figure greater than zero. The base figure for Special Services Attendance gives the number of services reported.

Overall, students dominated Sunday attendance during fullterm with an average of about 60 attending each college chapel. Sunday services had a higher average attendance for students than midweek services. The opposite was true for children with an average of 37 attending midweek services compared to an average of just 10 at Sunday services. Similarly, more “other attendees” attended midweek services (an average of 51) than Sunday services (an average of 35) and, on aggregate, they accounted for over half of total midweek attendees. The highest attendance at any service averaged 284 for each college with a total of almost 4,000. Colleges reported 35 Advent and Christmas services with over 8,000 people attending. Note that these figures will include services held on days other than Christmas Eve and Christmas day and so will not fall under the Christmas figures overleaf.
At least 25%, and up to 90%, of students attended at least one chapel service during their time at College.

No colleges reported attendance or communicants at Easter Day services. Just 2 reported attendance at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and of those, 1 chapel reportedly served communion. Colleges held, on average, 2 baptisms for each age category. There was just 1 thanksgiving reported and this was for a child under 1 year old. 7 college chapels each held one service of prayer and dedication after a civil marriage while 14 colleges held an average of 6 marriages in the chapel. College chapels held an average of 2 funeral services, 2 memorial services and 1 funeral at a crematorium/cemetery. There were over 600 events (not services) held across the 12 chapels responding to this question; an average of 53 per college.

Numbers of male and female adult/student choir members were roughly equal with an average of 15 females and 14 males, however, one college reported at least one male choir member but no female choir members. No colleges reported having any girl choristers while 3 colleges had an average of 17 boy choristers each. 12 colleges reported having male organists compared with just 7 having female organists.