

# Chapel Statistics

2017

Oxford, Cambridge, Durham

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## Executive summary

52 college chapels were invited to take part in the 2017 Chapel survey. Of those 52 who received the survey, 37 completed the survey giving a response rate of 71%

### Usual Sunday and Midweek attendance

- Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels reported a usual Sunday attendance during term time of just over 2,700 people, of whom just under half were students. A usual midweek attendance during term time of just under 4,000 was reported for 2017, of whom just over a quarter were students.

### Worshipping Community

- Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported a worshipping community of just over 3,000 people. The majority (84%) were aged between 18-69 years old. On average 15% of the college student body were part of the worshipping community.

### Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals

- There were 80 baptisms in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2017. The majority were for infants aged under one year.
- There were 44 confirmations in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2017.
- There were 148 marriages held in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2017.
- There were 32 services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages held in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels during 2017.
- 20 funeral services and 45 memorial services were held in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2017. A further 20 funerals services were conducted by a member of the chapel ministry team at a crematorium or cemetery during 2017.

### Choral traditions

- Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported having a total of 52 choirs during 2017. Chapels reported having 73 organ scholars, of whom 65% were male. There were slightly more women (487) than men (479) singing regularly in college chapels. Chapels further reported having 178 child choristers, of whom 61% were male.

### Christmas and Easter

- The majority of college chapels did not hold services at Easter and Christmas in 2017. One chapel reported a total Easter attendance of just over 1,000 during 2017, while 4 chapels reported having a total Christmas attendance of just under 3,000 during 2017.

### Special services

- Over 17,000 people attended Advent and Christmas carol services during 2017. Just under 4,000 people attended Commemoration of Benefactors services, while 3,000 attended graduation, leavers' or end of year services.

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## Introduction

Data presented in this report were collected from the 2017 College Chapel survey, which included Oxford, Cambridge Durham university college chapels. The aim of the survey and report is to build up a needed picture of the valuable contributions college chapels make to the local and national church. These data help to highlight the activities taking place in these chapels, whilst also acting as a starting point for understanding the contribution college chapels make to local and national worship.

There are many different types of chapels and chaplaincy including prison, education, hospital and military. Going forward it is hoped that the Research and Statistics unit will be able to further explore these different areas of chaplaincy, so we can start to build a much more comprehensive picture of chapels.

In 2016, the chapel survey was sent to all 56 chapels, however four chapels elected not to participate in the survey as they were ecumenical, so the 2017 survey was sent to 52 chapels instead. 37 chapels responded, giving a response rate of 71%.

Colleges were asked to report on several aspects of chapel life including baptisms, thanksgivings, marriages, funerals, usual Sunday and Midweek attendance (based on an 8 or 9-week term), worshipping community, choral and musical traditions, Easter, Christmas and advent services.

This is the third time the survey has been carried out with all three universities, the first being in 2014.

The survey questions can be found in the Appendix.

## Acknowledgments

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 for his continued support for the College Chapel survey.

## Usual Sunday and Midweek attendance; Worshipping community

**Table 1: Usual Sunday attendance, 2017**

	Total	Min	Max
Students	1,350	14	85
Adults (16 years old and over)	1,280	3	485
Children/young people (under 16 years old)	110	1	25

Total: 2,740

**Table 2: Usual midweek attendance (Mon – Sat), 2017**

	Total	Min	Max
Students	1,000	4	95
Adults (16 years old and over)	2,630	1	2,030
Children/young people (under 16 years old)	230	1	55

Total: 3,860

**Table 3: Worshipping community, 2017**

	Number of people
Children (Age 0 - 10)	90
Young people (Age 11 - 17)	120
Adults (Age 18 - 69)	2,620
Adults (70+)	270

Total: 3,110

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported a usual Sunday attendance during term time of just over 2,700 during 2017.

Of those attending just under half were students. 46% were adults aged 16 or over and 5% were children or young people aged under 16.

Usual Sunday attendance information was provided by 33 chapels.

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported a usual midweek attendance during term time of just under 4,000.

Of those attending 68% were adults aged 16 or over. Just over a quarter were students and 6% were children aged under 16 years old.

Usual midweek attendance information was provided by 32 chapels.

A total Worshipping Community of just over 3,000 was reported from all 3 universities. Unsurprisingly, the majority (84%) were aged between 18 and 69 years. Children and young people accounted for 7% of the reported worshipping community.

Worshipping community information was provided by 34 chapels

## Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Confirmations, Marriages, Funerals

**Table 4: Baptisms and Thanksgivings, 2017**

	Total
Infants (<1 year)	48
Children (1-4 years)	17
Children (5-12 years)	4
Youth/adult (13+)	13

Total: 82

**Table 5: Confirmations, 2017**

	Total
Children (<12 years)	10
Youth/adults (13+)	34

Total: 44

**Table 6: Marriages. 2017**

	Total
How many marriages were held in your chapel during 2017?	148
Services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages	32

Total: 180

**Table 7: Funerals, 2017**

	Total
Funeral services held in chapels	20
Memorial services (but not a funeral) held in chapel	45
Funerals at a crematorium or cemetery	20

Total: 85

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels reported a total of 80 baptisms during 2017. Of those who were baptised over half (59%) were infants aged under one year old. There was only one thanksgiving reported in 2017.

There were 44 confirmations reported in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels in 2017.

There were 148 marriages and 32 services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2017.

There were 20 funerals held in either Oxford, Cambridge or Durham college chapels during 2017, while 20 were held at a crematorium or cemetery. A further 45 memorial services were held in college chapels during 2017.

## Choirs and choral traditions

**Table 8: Choral and musical traditions, 2017**

	Total
Total number of choirs who sing in the chapel	52
Total number of organ scholars	73
Total number of regular adult/student choir members	966
Number of child choristers	178

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels reported a total of 52 choirs and 73 organ scholars.

Of the 966 reported regular adult/student choir members, 487 were women and 479 were men. College chapels reported having 178 child choristers, of whom 61% were male.

## Christmas, Easter and other services

**Table 9: Christmas and Easter**

	Total	Min	Max
Total number of people, including communicants on Easter Day and vigil service on Easter Eve.	360	359	359
Total number, including communicants, attending worship at service(s) on Easter Day and vigil service on Easter Eve.	790	794	794
Total number of people, including communicants on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.	590	20	384
Total number, including communicants, attending worship at service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.	2,400	40	1,961

The majority of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels do not hold services during Easter or Christmas. Of the 37 chapels who answered the survey, only 1 chapel reported having a service during Easter, while 4 college chapels reported having services during Christmas during 2017.



**Table 10: Attendance at other services, 2017**

	Total	Min	Max
Advent & Christmas carol services	17,300	60	3,568
Commemoration of Benefactors	3,940	30	740
Graduation/leavers/end of year service	3,330	30	350

17,302 people attended Advent or Christmas carol services during 2017.

3,946 people attended Commemoration of Benefactors services and 3,334 people attended graduation, leavers or end of year services during 2017. Other special services reported included: Alumni evensong, Choir reunion service and Remembrance.

## Methodology

Data presented in this report were collected via the 2017 Chapel survey, which was completed by Oxford, Cambridge and Durham University college chapels. This is the third time the survey has been conducted with all three universities, the first being in 2014. The survey aims to build up a more comprehensive picture of the valuable contributions chapel make to local and national worship. The survey was sent to all 56 college chapels using Survey Monkey 2018. 37 college chapels responded and completed the survey, giving a response rate for 2017 of 66%, compared to 82% for 2016.

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

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

- Baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals
- Usual Sunday and midweek attendance
- Worshipping community
- Christmas, Easter and other services

For the second year, college chapels were asked to report on their 'worshipping community', which is a question asked of churches on the Statistics for Mission form. The full Statistics for Mission report can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/2016statisticsformission.pdf> For the purposes of this survey a chapel's worshipping community is defined as those people who attend regularly, for example at least twice a term or would attend if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence.

Whilst many figures in this report have been rounded to the nearest 10, 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.

All erroneous figures were queried with the college chapels directly. If the reported figure was wrong, then the data were amended.

## College Chapel Survey: January to December 2017

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

### Baptisms, thanksgivings and confirmations

How many baptisms were held in your chapel during 2017? 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 2017?

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

How many people were confirmed in your chapel during 2017? 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 2017.

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 2017: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of deceased for whom a memorial service (but not a funeral) was conducted at your chapel during 2017: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of deceased for whom a full funeral service was conducted by a member of your chapel ministry team at a crematorium/cemetery during 2017, 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 2017. 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 2017.

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 2017?

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 section 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 2017**. 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 2017

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 2017.

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 2017?

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: \_\_\_\_\_