

Chapel Statistics

2018

Oxford, Cambridge, Durham

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Executive summary

54 college chapels were invited to take part in the 2018 Chapel survey. 40 completed the survey giving a response rate of 74%. Most responses (19) came from Oxford college chapels, with 17 Cambridge college chapels responding and 4 Durham colleges.

Usual Sunday and Midweek attendance

- Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels reported a usual Sunday attendance during term time of 3,000 people, of whom 46% were students. A usual midweek attendance during term time of 3,300 was reported for 2018, of whom 33% were students.

Worshipping Community

- Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported a total worshipping community of 4,500 people. The majority (86%) were aged between 18-69 years old. On average 16% of the college student body were part of the worshipping community.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals

- There were 68 baptisms and thanksgivings for the gift of a child in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2018. The majority were for infants aged under one year.
- There were 93 confirmations in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2018.
- There were 138 marriages held in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2018.
- There were 30 services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages held in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels during 2018.
- 18 funeral services and 34 memorial services were held in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2018. A further 17 funerals services were conducted by a member of the chapel ministry team at a crematorium or cemetery during 2018.

Choral traditions

- Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported having a total of 53 choirs during 2018. Chapels reported having 76 organ scholars, of whom 73% were male. There were slightly more women (556) than men (549) singing regularly in college chapels. Chapels further reported having 152 child choristers, of whom 64% were male.

Christmas and Easter

- Most college chapels did not hold services at Easter in 2018. One chapel reported a total Easter attendance of 450 people during 2018, while 36 chapels reported having a total Christmas attendance of over 2,500 people during 2018.

Special services

- 18,500 people attended Advent and Christmas carol services during 2018. 3,400 people attended Commemoration of Benefactors services, while more than 3,600 people attended graduation, leavers' or end of year services.

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Introduction

Data presented in this report were collected from the 2018 College Chapel survey, which included Oxford, Cambridge and Durham university college chapels. The aim of the survey and report is to build up a 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. The Research and Statistics unit is presently in the process of designing a new survey of chaplaincy to measure the reach and impact of Anglican chaplaincy and how it contributes to the wider life of the Church. Anyone who is interested in participating in or finding out more about the chaplaincy survey is encouraged to contact the Research and Statistics unit.

This is the fourth time the survey has been carried out with these three universities, the first being in 2014. Analysis of trends is not possible at this time due to the number of chapels that have completed the survey annually between 2016 and 2018 and the short time range of the data.

In 2018, the chapel survey was sent to 54 chapels. 40 chapels responded, giving a response rate of 74%. 19 Oxford college chapels, 17 Cambridge college chapels and 4 Durham college chapels submitted responses to the survey.

Colleges chapels 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. 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, the Revd Canon Hugh Shilson-Thomas of Selwyn College, Cambridge and the Revd Gavin Wort, Co-ordinating Chaplain at Durham University for their help and continued support for the College Chapel Survey.

Usual Sunday and Midweek attendance; Worshipping community

Table 1: Usual Sunday attendance, 2018

	Total
Students	1,388
Adults (16 years old and over)	1,453
Children/young people (under 16 years old)	138
Total	2,979

Table 2: Usual midweek attendance (Mon – Sat), 2018

	Total
Students	1,126
Adults (16 years old and over)	1,947
Children/young people (under 16 years old)	212
Total	3,285

Table 3: Worshipping Community, 2018

	Number of people
Children (Age 0 - 10)	76
Young people (Age 11 - 17)	137
Adults (Age 18 - 69)	3,838
Adults (70+)	410
Total	4,461

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported a usual Sunday attendance during term time of 3,000 during 2018.

Where chapels provided complete data (33), of those attending 46% were students, 49% were adults aged 16 or over and 5% were children or young people aged under 16. The largest usual Sunday attendance recorded was 421 people.

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham chapels reported a usual midweek attendance during term time of under 3,300.

Where chapels provided complete data (33), of those attending 60% were adults aged 16 or over, 33% were students and 7% were children aged under 16 years old. The largest usual midweek attendance reported was 1,210 people.

A total Worshipping Community of just over 4,400 was reported from all 3 universities. Unsurprisingly, the majority (86%) were aged between 18 and 69 years. Children and young people accounted for 5% of the reported worshipping community. The average proportion of students that is part of the worshipping community was 16% (when two colleges with student proportions of 90% are excluded it decreases to 12%).

Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Confirmations, Marriages, Funerals

Table 4: Baptisms and Thanksgivings, 2018

	Total
Infants (<1 year)	30
Children (1-4 years)	21
Children (5-12 years)	4
Youth/adult (13+)	13
Total	68

Table 5: Confirmations, 2018

	Total
Children (<13 years)	46
Youth/adults (13+)	47
Total	93

Table 6: Weddings and Services of prayer and dedication. 2018

	Total
How many marriages were held in your chapel during 2018?	138
Services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages	30
Total	168

Table 7: Funerals, 2018

	Total
Funeral services held in chapels	18
Memorial services (but not a funeral) held in chapel	34
Funerals at a crematorium or cemetery	17
Total	69

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels reported a total of 65 baptisms during 2018. Of those who were baptised 45% were infants aged under one year old. There were three thanksgivings reported in 2018.

There were 93 confirmations reported in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels in 2018.

There were 138 marriages and 30 services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages in Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels during 2018.

There were 18 funerals held in either Oxford, Cambridge or Durham college chapels during 2018, while 17 were held at a crematorium or cemetery. A further 34 memorial services were held in college chapels during 2018.

Choirs and choral traditions

Table 8: Choral and musical traditions, 2018

	Total
Total number of choirs who sing in the chapel	53
Total number of organ scholars	76
Total number of regular adult/student choir members	1,105
Number of child choristers	152

Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels reported a total of 53 choirs and 76 organ scholars (of whom 74% were male).

Of the 1,105 reported regular adult/student choir members, 556 were women and 549 were men. College chapels reported having 152 child choristers, of whom 64% were male.

Christmas, Easter and other services

Table 9: Christmas and Easter

	Total
Total number of people, including communicants on Easter Day and vigil service on Easter Eve.	617
Total number, including communicants, attending worship at service(s) on Easter Day and vigil service on Easter Eve.	710
Total number of people, including communicants on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.	2,314
Total number, including communicants, attending worship at service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.	2,504

The majority of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham college chapels do not hold services during Easter, of the 40 chapels who answered the survey, only 2 chapels reported having a service during Easter. 36 of the 40 college chapels who answered the survey reported having services during Christmas 2018.

Table 10: Attendance at other services, 2018

	Total
Advent & Christmas carol services	18,490
Commemoration of Benefactors	3,388
Graduation/leavers/end of year service	3,626

18,490 people attended Advent or Christmas carol services during 2018.

3,388 people attended Commemoration of Benefactors services and 3,626 people attended graduation, leavers or end of year services during 2018. Other special services reported included: Alumni evensong, Choir reunion service and Remembrance.

Methodology

Data presented in this report were collected via the 2018 College Chapels survey, which was completed by Oxford, Cambridge and Durham University college chapels. This is the fourth time the survey has been conducted with all three universities, the first being in 2014. The survey aims to build up a picture of the valuable contributions chapels make to local and national worship. The survey was sent to 54 college chapels that agreed to participate using Survey Monkey 2018. 40 college chapels responded and completed the survey, giving a response rate for 2018 of 74%, compared to 71% for 2017. Four Oxford chapels (All Souls, Mansfield, Regent's Park and St John's) declined to participate in the survey as they are ecumenical.

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 different aspects of college chapel life including:

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

The survey was first run in 2014 to measure the life of college chapels that were not captured by the annual Statistics for Mission survey, but no survey was conducted in 2015. From 2016 the survey has been carried out consistently and has become one of the key reports for the Research and Statistics unit. For the third 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/2018-10/2016statisticsformission.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.

If a chapel left a question response blank, it was assumed that the answer was 0.

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 incorrect, then the data were amended.

College Chapel Survey: January to December 2018

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

Baptisms, thanksgivings and confirmations

How many baptisms were held in your chapel during 2018? 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 2018?

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

How many people were confirmed in your chapel during 2018? 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 2018.

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 2018: _____

Number of deceased for whom a memorial service (but not a funeral) was conducted at your chapel during 2018: _____

Number of deceased for whom a full funeral service was conducted by a member of your chapel ministry team at a crematorium/cemetery during 2018, 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 2018. 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 2018.

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 2018?

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 2018**. 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 2018

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 2018.

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 2018?

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: _____