

Raleigh St
CHRISTIAN CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/ 19



INTRODUCTION

“You are the light of the world.

A town built on a

hill cannot be hidden....

In the same way, let your
light shine before others, that they
may see your good deeds and
glorify your Father in heaven.

Just as cities in ancient days were built
on hilltops so that at night all who lived
in the surrounding countryside could
see it, so the community of Christ
followers are called to live in such a way
that the good deeds done cause people
to appreciate the God who they live
their lives in honour of.

Ka mura, Ka muri. I love this Māori proverb about how
we link the past that we can see with the future that
we cannot. The idea is that we are all walking through
life backwards. We can't see the future just as we can't
see where we are going when we are walking
backwards. Instead, we look to the past to inform the
way we move into the future. We learn from those
who have gone before us. We regard the past and
present as a single, comprehensible 'space' because
that is what we have seen and known. We walk
backward into the future with our thoughts directed
toward the coming generations but always reflecting
and drawing on the past.

I think that this is a view of life that is very consistent
with scripture. God regularly reminds us to remember.
It is in the memories of God's goodness and
faithfulness that we can be centered in the present
and hopeful about the future. In a world that feels
tipped upside down and full of confusion there is a
creator God who has remained faithful to his covenant
people.

As we reflect on another year, we continue the ancient
tradition of being grateful. In a world that encourages
dis-satisfaction, so we always crave for more, the word
of God invites us to rest, to celebrate in what God has
done and continues to do.

Hebrews 10 provides an important framework as we
consider the role of the church community. Here the
writer reminds us of the importance of meeting
together. There are three let us descriptions of what
our activities should be focused around. Firstly, to
draw near to this creating, saving, redeeming God who
has opened the way that we can return to God with
confidence because of Christ. Secondly to hold fast to
the hope we have. In a distracting world that pulls us
away from the source of life and goodness, we
collectively stay close to each other to cling to the
truth. The third is to remind each other that our life
together consists of loving one another and doing
good. Be blessed as we reflect on another year of
God's goodness and look forward to another year of
doing life with our Creator and his community.

RSCC Mission Statement

To be a caring, contemporary Bible-based church
passionately committed to encouraging believers
through a vital Christian fellowship and equipping
them to reach our community and world for Christ.



Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the holy
places by the blood of Jesus,

let us draw near with a heart in full assurance of faith,

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without
wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love
and good works,

not neglecting to meet together, ...

but encouraging one another, and all the more as you
see the Day drawing near.

HEBREWS 10

GROWING DEEPER

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The Church envisioned by Jesus was to be a community of people who sacrificially give of themselves. This is just modeling the sacrificial life and death of the author and perfecter of our faith. We hold the Word as God's special revelation to us giving us what we need to know for life and Godliness. Alongside Biblical Knowledge we aim for Holy Obedience and Spiritual Intimacy with God as we grow in spiritual maturity.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SNAPSHOTS



Sermon Series

Raleigh Street continues to be blessed with good teachers delivering relevant Bible-based series. Sermons are available online and this year has been videoed. Series this year included:

- Exodus Brought out, drawn in
- Missio Dei
- Spoken Prophet, Priest, King
- Summer shorts- Parables
- City on a hill
- Sticky Faith

Light in Dark Places

This series looked at mental health from a Christian perspective. With many mental health conditions significantly on the rise, this is a timely topic but far from a new one. Looking primarily at Elijah, we saw that the Bible deals with the reality of mental struggles.

We were very blessed to have a number of Raleigh St members share the realities of living with troubling thoughts while maintaining a faith in the goodness of God. This series was very well received and helpful both in increasing understanding and also showing that church is a safe place to be vulnerable.

Technology

This year has seen the continued development in usage of the technology invested in over the last two years. Video and production quality has increased. Sunday services are now live streamed via Facebook and the website. This has been gratefully received by those unable to attend on Sundays either temporarily or regularly. Research is also now showing that many of those who go on to attend church begin by viewing services online. This provides opportunity for church members to invite their friends and family members to watch online and see worship and hear the teaching. Please pray for this outlet of our ministry as they continue to develop opportunities and bring on new helpers.

CCCNZ Conference

Once again, we had the privilege of hosting the Waikato CCCNZ conference in May. What a blessing as many people from a number of our connected churches came together for fellowship, to consider how to do everyday discipleship. These will be annual events and are designed to encourage and equip lay leaders and members of our churches. We continue to be encouraged by the increased networking of our CCNZ churches.



Baptisms

Always a joy and encouragement to see believers take the step of obedience and publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus. We have seen men and women, young and old and varying backgrounds of faith step into the waters of baptism and say to the world they belong to Jesus. Often these are held outdoors in the lake but also in our baptistery at the chapel.



Home groups

Home groups remain a critical component of community life. Groups gathering together to learn, encourage, share and do life together. Please pray as the leadership considers how to help more people be involved, that more leaders would arise to lead groups and that through these groups' individuals would grow in their love for Jesus.

Women's Events

2018/19 has seen several events and study groups occur. Women's ministries continue to be a vibrant area of our church and it is great to see connections being made across the generations.

Highlights include

- Gals day Out
- Thou shalt workout
- Bible Study series incl Worthy
- Sistas

Connect

The Wednesday morning midweek women's Bible Study continues to go strongly after merging two groups in 2018.

THE FUTURE

Would love to see more opportunities for people to connect into the community, love one another and bear each other's burdens. This can be difficult in a church our size. From an organizational perspective we could do more community meals/events but the biggest opportunity will be from homes being opened up and people inviting in the stranger to eat together and remove the barriers to fellowship. We have also started running regular connecting events either in Cambridge or at local Christian camps.

Children's Ministry

Each Sunday during school term our children up to middle school age have a program catered for them. After starting with the full church, children head out for an all together session followed by classes by age group. One highlight among many for this ministry was the prayer stations Sunday. Activities all revolving around aspects of prayer were setup around the chapel. Children after the service got the joy of showing their parents what they had been learning about prayer and praying for. Our children's ministry continues to be a big area of growth. Please pray for leadership to know how to manage the number of children coming through and that God would continue to raise up leaders for classes.



Amplify/Youth

Amplify is for the middle school years while Youth is for High School. Each run a mix of Bible Study nights as well as fun events. These are well attended by church member families as well as community youth. Please pray for our leaders as they work with our youth that they would empower and inspire them to commit their lives to following Jesus.



Worship Nights

Twice a term on Sunday evenings, our community has gathered in the chapel to sing, pray, share, reflect with the purpose of ascribing greatness to our mighty God. 2019 has seen these nights focus on the various names of God from scripture. The variety of music and opportunities for people to share the have meant these nights have been a real blessing.

Intergenerational Services

One of the key objectives for us as a community is that every age group in our church is valued and feels that this is their spiritual home. We have continued running intergenerational services once each school holidays. These incorporate elements so that all generations feel included and fed. Leadership has great feedback on these services and we will continue to work out how this should continue to operate in the future. We get great comments from people about the pleasure of seeing a wide range of generation's fellowshiping in our church together. Long may this continue.

THE FUTURE

We continue to hold fast to the teaching of God's word. We would love to continue to engage with current topics that we have to wrestle with in our post-modern world. While continuing to proclaim God's word, we want to continue to explore more opportunities to teach God's word creatively and effectively. We are also continuing to pursue ways to help other churches in our region with opportunities in Kaipaki and Horahora among others.

REACHING WIDER

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.... In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

At Raleigh Street we desire to be a consistent loving presence in our community. “Follow me,’ Jesus said, “And I will make you fishers of men.’ The question then is no longer if you’re called. It’s only a matter of where and how. This will manifest itself in a large number of ways both locally and globally. Simply being obedient to follow God, putting our “yes’ on the table, leveraging our lives for him and seeing what God will do through us.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SNAPSHOTS



Light Party & other Events

Our biggest community event of the year where we provide a fun evening on Oct 31 each year. Last year our theme was sports and we had another great turnout. The wipeout was a hit and we had a live band. Great feedback from the community including schools who just love this event. We also a family games night, Spring Festival (to raise money for Dr Rebekah Lamb going to PNG) and a Barn Dance.

Futsal

Futsal is a game made famous in Brazil. It is indoor football on a smaller court with a smaller but with loads of energy. This is held at the high school and is open to everyone to attend and participate. We have seen people bring along work colleagues and school friends. Has been a great low-key event for mixing of people.



RSCC Mission

Our strong commitment to missions continued this year as Rebekah Lamb went to PNG as a medical doctor working at the Nazarene Mission Hospital in Kudjip. The Stewart family from Auckland, (whom we support), went to a restricted country where they are currently undergoing language learning.

We hosted Mart-Jan van der Maas from Alongsiders, Cambodia in February and as a result of his visit, a team of nine people from RSCC will go to Cambodia later this year. Josh Jennings will also go to Cambodia about the same time but with Habitat for Humanity.

In April, Mieke Heebink and Emma Pederson spent time in India with Glenys Bichan from Capernwray.

Andrew Balchin and Jakob Lind spent 6 weeks at an orphanage in Romania in June and July and the Missions Team organised for Jeremy Lind to spend time in Zambia in August where he co-taught the first cohort of the four-part Barnabas School of Leadership course.

Along with this, we continue to encourage and support Vinnie and Zoe at Mana Hapori, Nick and Nadine with TSCF, the Turners in Uganda, Mrs Padmavathy in India and four workers in DR Congo aligned with CDLA (Murray and Joy Stevenson).

We also maintain an active interest in the work of Brian and Gwenda, Norm and Liz and Murray and Christine.



Play Group

Thursday mornings are a hive of activity as parents and caregivers complete with pre-schoolers descend on Raleigh St. The atmosphere is ideal with beautiful food (and coffee) provided and all the toys for the kids to play with. The group has provided a neat setting to form friendships with Cambridge parents and their children. To share in the collective experience of raising children with all the joys and challenges.

Hope Project

We continue to support the Hope project as it sends booklets out to every household in NZ at Easter time. Next year they will be shifting to street deliveries in towns through churches. This could be a good opportunity for us to visit houses at Easter.

Kaivolution

In 2019 we have begun a partnership with a food rescue organisation in the Waikato. Previously this group had been rescuing food from local businesses that would normally go to landfill. As they were taking the food back to Hamilton for distribution, there was a keenness for a partnership in Cambridge to distribute food locally. The leadership felt this was a good fit with our desire to be a loving presence in the community. Not only do we get to reduce landfill waste, but the food is able to be distributed and used. We hope this will help provide connections with people locally in Cambridge as we bless people with rescued food.

Shalom Valley Adventure Camp

The Alongsiders camp where Jared and Jess Suisted and Lucas and Erin Fraser have been previously supporting the build. The first mission team from Raleigh St will head there in December.

Case for Christ

Raleigh St hired a cinema at the local Tivoli cinema to show the movie Case for Christ. This is the dramatic story of journalist and former atheist Lee Strobel's study of the case for rational belief in Christianity. Good numbers attended both sessions and we hope to do this again in the future with follow-up opportunities for people to explore the case like Lee Strobel did.

Waikato University

Nick Goodwin continues to develop a ministry at the local university. Has been able to be involved primarily through a partnership with TSCF. Highlights include leading or being involved in Alpha courses, public presentations on topical issues, teaching at Taurima hostel and handing out hot cross buns at Easter. Please pray for Nick and other leaders as they seek to share the love of Jesus in what can be a tough environment.



Cambridge Cross

After a long and at times frustrating process a replacement cross has been erected in the center of Cambridge. After being blindsided by the old one being taken down without consultation, the minister's group were able to get the right (with community support) for a new cross to be put back up. After fundraising across the churches raised the required finances. Beautiful views from Hamilton Rd as you drive into Cambridge and Lake Te Koutu give us this picture of our faith and a reminder to our community of our heritage.

Rally/ICONZ

ally for girls on Thursdays and ICONZ for boys on Mondays. Good numbers of young people from unchurched families who get to connect with Christian leaders and hear the gospel. Also, plenty of children from our own community who are blessed by the activities, connections and community of these ministries. Please pray for more leaders, opportunities for more community children to come along and that children will come to a relationship with their savior.

Kaipaki cricket challenge

Kaipaki cricket club aka John Parker challenged Raleigh St to an afternoon cricket match. Despite a sterling performance by young and old, Raleigh St went down fighting. Enough promise was shown to encourage a rematch next summer with possibly some challenges with other churches as well.



Mainly Music

Continues to host 30-60 children and their parents every week. Good numbers of unchurched families who hear music with Christian lyrics and connect with church families. Please pray for more leaders to help at mainly music. More leaders would help to share the load and provide more opportunity for connecting with parents



24-7

This is a relationship we have with local schools where we provide youth workers and volunteers to be good role models and safe places for rangatahi.

Highlights this year include:

We started youth work at Cambridge Middle School with 2 youth workers: Thomas Hunt and Santasha McGuire and Viki Johnson (team leader). The team at CMS are running kapa haka, two breakfast clubs, lunch time hangouts and mentoring. Thomas is also seconded to Mana Hapori to help with an after-school club for primary aged children.

Our team ran a Learner License workshop in the April school holidays. All eighteen high school students gained their Learner Drivers License. It was a collaborative effort between Waipa District Council, CHS Pathways Department and the AA centre in Cambridge. We will be running these regularly throughout the year.

One of our youth leaders started a social futsal comp every other Sunday in partnership with CHS at their gym. Another youth leader started a free Women's Community Workout every Thursday. These provided youth with opportunity to develop skills and social connection with a wider range of people in a friendly environment.

Our youth work team is gratefully supported by a number of entities and in 2018-19 these were: Cambridge High School; Cambridge Middle School; Synergy Trust; Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS); Jumble Around; Trust Waikato; Waipa District Council Discretionary Fund; Wel Energy Trust; Soul Purpose Trust; Longview Trust; Lichfield Lands and anonymous donors.



FACILITIES

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

The facilities at Raleigh Street continue to be utilized by our own community and increasingly by the wider Cambridge community. The church has really been a blessing to many people. With our growing church community (particularly families) the need for more space as well as specific spaces means we are in the process of enlarging our facilities.



Westwing

The designed building to the west of our current facility has been affectionately dubbed the ‘Westwing’. The ground floor will have a large purpose built pre-school children’s area and a community lounge/café. With spacious decks connecting back in to the current café area and a large fenced lawn area stretching back onto Raleigh St, these will become very usable spaces while opening up the building visually to the community. The second floor will have various multi-functional spaces for Sunday ministries and midweek activities. The third floor is planned to be leased out commercially with the likelihood of some national Christian ministries being based there.

Downstairs Lounge

With the Westwing ~18 months away, the opportunity to fill in an area within the existing building accessing the Rally Hall and main foyer has arisen. This 90sqm downstairs lounge gives the opportunity to relieve some of our facility pressure earlier while providing room(s) that will be useful long term. The area will be able to be split into two rooms and with the dual access through the facility greatly adds to our current facility. The downstairs will also be useful as the stairs are a barrier to a number of people accessing our upstairs rooms.

FINANCES

Raleigh Street Christian Centre operates two entities as follows:

RSCC Inc (Raleigh Street Christian Centre Incorporated) is an Incorporated Society with a board of trustees and the entity which employs church staff, enters into contracts when required for goods and services and enables the day to day administrative requirements of the church. It also provides the legal structure for the activities of the Community Development Team (CDT) and its 24-7 Youth Work in local schools.

BT (Bethany Trust) is a Registered Charitable Trust governed by a board of trustees (not the same as those of RSCC Inc). BT owns and leases out commercial and residential properties, including the land and buildings that the church operates out of, together with most of the plant and equipment that the church uses (RSCC Inc is a BT tenant).

FINANCIAL POSITION 2019

The financials (right) summarize the consolidated figures for RSCC Inc and BT (Group) as well as RSCC Inc shown separately (Parent) for the financial year ended 31 March 2019.

Total giving of \$729,330 reflects donations/offerings of \$719,190 (Parent) and gifts of \$10,140 (to BT) for new building and general.

Rental income of \$58,047 is from the two adjoining properties 119 Shakespeare St & 22 Raleigh St - \$36,573 – car park lease - \$4,368 – and \$17,106 from charges for use of the church building and facilities by external groups.

Mission expenditure of \$96,193 includes overseas missions, support to long term missionaries and local missions.

Ministries expenditure of \$110,276 covers all expenditure occurred in supporting the Raleigh Street Christian Centre community by programmes and events.

As at balance date there were 21 employees (13 part time & 3 casuals) who work at Raleigh Street, CDT work at local schools or outreach work to university students in Hamilton.

This is only an overview of the financials. Full details are in the audited performance report please contact the church office.

REVENUE 2019

	Group	Parent (INC)
Giving	729,330	719,190
CDT Grants	76,100	76,100
Rental	58,047	17,106
Other	55,843	54,685
Total Income	919,320	867,081

EXPENDITURE 2018

	Group	
Administration	37,360	33,725
Facilities	64,589	101,300
Ministries	110,276	110,276
Missions & Outreach	96,193	96,193
Staff	448,823	448,823
Other	95,813	52,286
Total Expenditure	\$853,054	\$842,603
Surplus	\$66,266	\$24,478

R a l e i g h St INC

Chair's Report

I've been blessed by our current Sunday morning teaching series on the Apostles' Creed.

It's been great to dive into this, article by article, over a number of weeks, and be reminded of the basic tenets of our faith that our spiritual forbears articulated so well, many, many centuries ago.

I suspect for many of us, like myself, who don't have a strong background in the use of liturgy and catechism in our spiritual heritages, this might have had some novelty value. The most delightful aspects of the series for me have been the way that our Sunday morning speakers have tied the creed back into the scripture from where it came, and so nicely aligns; along with the regular playing of the video clip of our RSCC people reciting the creed, and from time to time us doing the same, together, as a full congregation.

As Chair of the Inc Board I'm pleased to report that RSCC is in great heart. The audited Performance Report shows that our finances are sound, and the statement of service performance near the front of that report gives some insight into the extent of our reach into our community through the various services, ministries and other programmes that operate out of this place on a regular basis. The need for our landlord, Bethany Trust, to be advancing a significant building programme to accommodate our requirements is testament to the fact that this is a growing church.

Of course none of this could happen without a whole bunch of people who believe in the work of the Kingdom, and who support this work through their prayers, their finances and the utilisation of their God-given talents and energy. There's a huge team of volunteers who put this effort in week by week. This is really appreciated, as is the work of our staff, and the Elders who provide spiritual oversight and governance of all the work at RSCC.

Hope to see you at the AGM.



Grace and Peace

Ken Morris

RSCC INC Chair

BETHANY TRUST

Chair's Report

During this period Bethany Trust has continued to support Raleigh Street Christian Centre by the provision and maintenance of facilities, infrastructure and assets. This has enabled RSCC to minister to its congregation, and the wider Cambridge community.

We continued working towards realising the vision to make Raleigh Street Christian Centre's presence in Cambridge more visible and accessible. The aim is to widen the reach of Raleigh Street's ministries by lowering the barrier for the wider Cambridge community to engage. The West Wing development is a critical enabler as it will provide direct physical access from Raleigh Street. Additionally, the attractively designed indoor and outdoor spaces will lower the 'threshold' for the community and will provide Raleigh Street's ministries with the spaces they need to minister them.

As trustees, in close collaboration with Raleigh Street's leadership, we remain committed to investing in the location and facilities with which the Lord has blessed us. We are also committed to boldly stepping out in faith while continually submitting our plans to the Lord. From experience we have learned that as long as we are in His will, God will bless the work of his servants.

Our prayer is that the Raleigh Street congregation shares the vision and supports the realisation of this over the coming years.

Sources of income

Lease income is the main source of income for BT. There are commercial lease agreements in place for the main church complex and for the house on 119 Shakespeare Street. BT also receives income from a residential rental property on 22 Raleigh Street.

This income is complemented by gifts and donations.

Key focus for the coming year

BT will continue to work closely with the Elders and the Leadership team of Raleigh Street on the preparation for the building extension. We hope to complete the build and sell the Norfolk Downs house to contribute towards the fund raising for the other building projects. To alleviate the space constraints within the current footprint we will commence and aim to complete the downstairs lounge.

Along with the above, BT will step up its focus on fund raising for the above projects.

Main activities

The main activities that BT carried out over the year were:

- Signed new lease agreement with Raleigh Street Christian Centre
- West Wing extension development
 - Established Design Committee
 - Engaged architects to progress design
 - Engaged Quantity Surveyor and civil & structural engineers
- Downstairs lounge
 - Feasibility study and concept development downstairs lounge
 - Commissioned Geotech engineer
- Norfolk Downs residential development
 - Settled purchase of Norfolk Downs section
 - Engaged designer for detailed design
 - Commenced marketing
- Investigated investment opportunities
- Purchase of more video equipment
- Obtained Asbestos Management Reports (compliance)
- Lots of general property maintenance and purchases of plant and equipment

BETHANY TRUST

Chair's Report

Key focus areas for 2019/2020

- Downstairs lounge
- Detailed design of 'West Wing' extension
- Norfolk Downs house build and sale
- Fund raising
- Working with RSCC Inc. & Elders to ensure the facilities meet current and future needs

Opportunities to support the work of BT

- Working bees
- 'Give a day of your time' (individual, family, home group, youth group, etc.)
- Trades services (plumbers, electricians, builders, painters, etc.)
- Financial support (donations, interest-free loans, etc.)
- Treasurer position vacant
- Governance internship
- Recruitment of a funding project manager
- Last but certainly not least, prayer support

Recognition of support

The trustees wish to recognise the many volunteers who donate their time, skills and resources to the work of Bethany Trust. At the risk of missing some people out, we would like to specifically mention the following people:

- All the working bee attendees
- Lejf Pedersen for electrical work
- Ken Potter for building and maintenance work
- Ianthe Weir for accounts administration and reporting

I also wish to thank my fellow trustees for their ongoing time, effort and commitment to Bethany Trust. I want to thank Owen White who served as Treasurer of Bethany Trust for many years.

Rob Heebink

Bethany Trust Chairperson

August 2019



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