



**St Andrew's Trust
for the study of
Religion and Society**



August - November – The Courage to Act

**Speaking truth to power and acting
truthfully to yourself**

Tuesday 12 September, 12:15 – 1:00pm

**St Andrew's on The Terrace
Wellington, New Zealand**

The courageous society and personal courage: Speaking truth to power and acting truthfully to yourself

Paul Gibson, recent Disability Rights Commissioner



Précis: Throughout my life as a disabled person, and in particular when I was Disability Rights Commissioner, I was privileged to hear the courageously shared stories, celebrations, and challenges of many disabled and otherwise marginalised people.

When taking these experiences to a strategic level, there was empathy, but not the corresponding level of courage from decision makers to act and courageously build a fairer, more inclusive society. I will share some personal reflections, and attempt to emulate the courage of the story tellers who have inspired me.

Bio: Paul Gibson was the Disability Rights Commissioner for the Human Rights Commission from 2011-2017. He is a former president of the Disabled People's Assembly and was involved in the development of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

Paul is partially blind and uses Braille and assistive technology. He has 20 years of experience in the health and disability sector including working for Capital Coast District Health Board as a senior disability advisor.

Tue 10 October 12:15-1:00pm - Martin Large

Shock Capitalism or Common Wealth?

Free, Equal, Earthcaring and Mutual : Rebalancing Society

Precis: There is no wealth but life,” said John Ruskin, offering hope. However, shock capitalism and shock politics are attacking our planet, businesses, government, schools, health and human security. Shocks like Trump or Brexit are opportunities for the corporatocracy to profit from global warming, insecurity, deregulation, taking away human rights, tax cuts and wealth transfer from poor to rich, public to private. Society is out of balance.



Martin Large will argue that saying ‘No’ is not enough, though it's a vital first step. In fact, the social future is breaking out everywhere in social business, communities and government, but it's not evenly distributed. A ‘common wealth’ society is emerging. Pushing back the toxic mix of shock capitalism and politics means rebalancing society as a three legged stool, of public (state), private (business) and plural (civil society, community, culture) with each sector contributing its strengths.

Solutions? Cultural renewal enables every human to develop and maintain their potential in freedom-and contribute. How can the common wealth of land, capital and natural resources be captured for the community and protected from the market through trusteeship? What does it mean to be a citizen? How do innovations like community supported agriculture help develop a circular, mutual, regenerative economy that respects the earth?

Bio: Martin Large is on a learning and lecture tour inquiring into ‘common wealth’ community initiatives, civic projects and social businesses. Father of four children, Quaker, student of Rudolf Steiner’s education and social thinking, former academic, publisher with Hawthorn Press, he is a director of Stroud (UK) Common Wealth Ltd which enables co-op, cultural and social businesses e.g. community land trusts. Author of *Social Ecology* (1981); *Set Free Childhood* (2002); *Futures that Work* (2003), *Common Wealth* (2010)

‘What society do we want and how do we get there?’ are burning questions we all face, if we are to leave a more equal, free, prosperous and earthcaring world for our grandchildren. Its up to all of us, as there is no wealth but life. I look forward to sharing burning questions, people’s ‘leadings’ from the social future they see emerging. ‘ ML

Link to a review of Martin's recent book [Common Wealth: Free, Equal, Mutual and Sustainable Society \(2010\)](#) More can be read on his [blog](#)

WiFi

The Church wif-i is called St Andrews WAP
The password is standyswap

We'd be delighted if you Blogged, Tweeted or FaceBooked this event!

NOTICES

Fire Drill: In the event of fire please exit by the doors marked and gather in the car-park on the south side of the Church.

Earthquake: In the event of an earthquake please follow the advertised procedure "Drop, Cover and hold."

Once the Earthquake is over exit by the marked doors and gather in the car-park on the south side of the Church.

Toilets: These can be found on the ground floor of the adjacent Conference Centre. The entrance is up the ramp on the north side of the church. An accessible toilet is available.

Hearing Loop

The Church **is fitted** with a hearing loop.

Donations

There is no charge for the lecture but we would greatly appreciate a donation to assist us with costs.

Thank you and enjoy the lecture.

Visit our **website** at satrs.org.nz
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