Sermon: **Can these bones live?** (Ezekiel 37.3)

Drift wood. Fascinating. Can it live? Of course not – too dried, and dead. TEXT.

Ezekiel’s vision. Wind = breath = spirit. (with links to Pentecost).
Vision is about Israel: in Exile, dried up, no hope, no future and about what God is going to do.

Sometimes this is what it feels like in Church. TEXT.

This can seem true at local congregation – struggling to be relevant, to reach out, even to carry on.

True also for Parishes – struggling for leadership, to pay for presbyters.

True for Connexion, for ecumenical Church scene locally, nationally, around the world. TEXT.

There are bright spots – in Dunedin some churches are better at it, more successful, but even so… TEXT.

A: Individually we are all getting older.

B: Churches quickly change from missions to institutions.

C: Our churches are marginalised with respect to society – few know or care about what we do. TEXT.

Where is the good news?

For Israel: God will bring them back to life, back to their land and will be known for having done this.

History shows that God did all this.

TEXT. So where is our good news?

A: With age comes wisdom (hopefully!), and for too long we have indulged in the cult of youth!

B: Crumbling institutions (better than ‘successful’ ones) can force us to consider re-visioning.

C: Being on the margins is where we belong – we are in the world, but not of the world!

The 1st step is to seek God’s Spirit – guide our wisdom, inspire re-visioning, help us to live on the edge.