

## Glynn Cardy Study Leave Report 2025/6

In November 2025 and January 2026 I took 50 days of Presbytery-approved study leave. The goal was to complete and then submit to the publisher (Coventry Press, Melbourne) a draft of a second book on spirituality, *Pinches of Wisdom Vol 2*. As the Foreword says:

*Pinches of Wisdom Vol 2* is a book full of little stories, many of which I hope will make you smile. Or feel good about our fellow humans. Or be encouraged that the values which build communities - like sharing, including, and friendship - still exist and are worth celebrating. There are stories about dancing, Christmas, animals, grandparents, ideas that seed goodness, and people who devote their life to sowing such.

I also go on to explain in the Foreword what it is not:

This book seldom mentions God, religious matters, or anything that conventionally passes for theology... Neither does this book grapple with the big and important issues of our times: like climate change, poverty, violence, racism, greed, fear, and their progeny... Instead, this book celebrates the values we hold dear: like love, laughter, gratitude, family, helping, healing, nature, serenity, and wonder. Values that undergird our activism.

The stories are largely from my own personal experience. None of the stories share any details of parishioners that could be identifiable.

The stories are about 600-700 words in length, and I've written 37 of them (expecting at least one to fall by the wayside through the upcoming editing and revision process with Coventry). I haven't included any photographs and will discuss this with my editor once the book has been accepted.

Only a few stories contain quotes from other people's writings – thereby limiting the work of seeking permission to use the quotes. Again I will discuss this further with my editor.

The potential audience for the book, like the three books I've written previously, are those who are interested in spirituality (namely living a connected, purposeful, and contented life) but not necessarily religion. So although 'God' and 'church' are rarely mentioned, the themes of love and community (which I would argue are the bedrock of Christianity) are present in nearly every story in one form or another.

The draft I've submitted to Coventry Press has been commented upon by my supervisor Roxy Gahegan and by my proofreader Rebecca Hayward. I am very grateful to them both.

I wish to thank the Northern Presbytery for allowing me this time. I wish to thank the Study Leave Coordinator for the Presbytery, Vivian Coleman. I also wish to thank all those who carried out supply ministry at St Luke's in my absence and those elders who undertook additional duties in order to make this happen. I am most grateful.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Glynn Cardy