

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

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Coping with the "spills" of life

Here are some of the lessons I am learning after a burst water pipe showered our house from top to bottom:

1. **Problems expand if they are not dealt with thoroughly:** The leak was stopped quickly, but wet insulation, walls and carpets meant that the water continued to spread. At first only two rooms looked damaged, but soon almost all rooms had been affected. It's the same with our issues. If root causes are not dealt with, they will eventually infect every area of life.
2. **Get back to the foundation:** Our walls need to be stripped and parts of the ceiling renewed before any redecorating can be done. A lot of work and patience is required in the short-run, and it's tempting to look for short-cuts and simply paper over the cracks, but a house needs solid foundations to weather future challenges. (Jesus made a similar point when he warned us against building our lives on shifting sand.)
3. **Everyone can contribute something:** Some friends and neighbours have done our washing and offered a warm roof over our heads; others prayed for us - and every contribution has been valuable. I had to learn to focus on the things that I am good at and ask for help in the areas where I am struggling. No-one can do everything. We need to learn to pool our resources and work together.