

Mishaps

We all have 'em... and it seems that ageing exacerbates them!

One weekend witnessed me slice the end off my finger with the potatoes, forget the soup was on the stove, tip my plate of dinner upside down on the kitchen floor, fall over twice in the same dance and knock a glass of water over

the bed! Keen to learn from mistakes, I now avoid potatoes, soup, dinners, dancing and bedtime! Which has left me with a slimming regime, inactive days and no sleep. So it seems that nothing is perfect this side of heaven.

Mishaps are commonplace at every age. The old monk was asked 'What do you do all day?' He replied 'We walk and we stumble and fall, we get up and we walk again, then we stumble again and we get up again....' Remember Incy Wincy spider? No matter how many set-backs, she tries again and again. A former vicar used to say: 'Just do your best – don't let 'perfection' get in the way of progress.'

In the 50's when autograph books were the must-have for school kids, my Dad wrote the following in mine – I have never forgotten it:

Take this honey for the bitterest cup
There is no failure save in giving up.
There's no real set-back so long as one still tries
For seeming set-backs make the strong girl wise.
There's no defeat in truth but from within;
Unless you're beaten there, you're bound to win.

So don't worry when things go awry, or you fail to achieve what you hoped for. Just pick yourself up, dust yourself down, smile at the mess you've made and ask for God's blessing. As I look around our home at all the unfinished jobs and needy repairs, I am reminded of the Church of England; and I am known to utter an arrow prayer –

*'Please, God, bless this mess!
And me in the middle of it.'*

