

From: CoCoChu office@colwallcommunitychurch.com
Subject: Is it well with your soul today? 🌍💖🇺🇸
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Good Afternoon
CoCoChu.....



"When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul."

– "It is Well with My Soul" by
Horatio Spafford

All the Latest news at CoCoChu.....

Good afternoon CoCoChu,

And relax.....We served over 170 people last weekend at our regional lunch. It was exhausting but it genuinely felt really special to join together and WORSHIP. There was such power in corporate worship. If you weren't there on Sunday please check out Pauls talk online. Such a profound speaker full of Gods Wisdom. In a nutshell "Slow Down, Be surprised, SHATTER YOUR DEFENCES - BOOM!"

We sometimes believe as Christians that we have a "get out of jail free" card. I guess when i was "born again" i believed that life was so perfect (I had encountered the creator). But being a Christian isn't that AT ALL. In fact i was having that

conversation with another Christian this week.

There is a famous hymn called "it is well with my soul" written by Horatio Spafford. The irony of this hymn is that his life was an utter mess, full of heartache and loss but yet he was still able to say "it is well with my soul".

This incredible story of faith belongs to Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888). Much like Job, he placed his trust in God during his life's prosperity, but also during its calamities. A devout Christian who'd immersed himself in Scripture, many years of his life were joyous. He was a prominent Chicago lawyer, who's business was thriving. Horatio owned several properties throughout the city. He and his beloved wife had four beautiful daughters and one son. Life was more than good — it was blessed.

But faith, no matter how great, does not spare us from adversity.

Just as Horatio hit the pinnacle of his profession and financial success, things began to change. It began with the tragic loss of their son. Not long thereafter, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed nearly every real estate investment Horatio owned. Just a few years later in 1873, Horatio decided to treat his wife and daughters to a much-needed escape from the turmoil. He sent them on a boat trip to Europe, with plans to join them shortly after wrapping up some business in Chicago. Just a few days later, he received a dreadful telegram from his wife, "Saved alone..." It bore the excruciating news that family's ship had wrecked and all four of his daughters had perished.

This was the moment "It is well with my soul was written"

In 1873, Horatio was on his way to meet his heartbroken wife, passing over the same sea that had just claimed the lives of his remaining children. It was then that he put his pen to paper and the timeless hymn was born.

It's incredible to think such encouraging and uplifting words were born from the depths of such unimaginable sorrow. It's an example of truly inspiring faith and trust in the Lord. And it goes to show the power our God has to overcome even the darkest times of our earthly life.

Be inspired, remember this hymn and sing it from the rooftops. It is these kinds of stories that inspire me. Only in adversity can the true overcoming power of Christ in the lives of ordinary people be seen.

What's been going on at CoCoChu this week:

- Last Friday Tom and Alice (our soon to be introduced youth worker, more

news below) met with Herefordshire Council last week and seemed genuinely supportive of our initiatives. The Council are keen to help. Both staff members talked about past church connections. What a blessing - Tom.

- We have had a few lovely e-mails back from the region about Sunday. Here are a few of them: "Thank you for making us feel so welcome on Sunday for the regional gathering and for all your hard work with the organisation and catering" Anotnia - Builth Wells. "Thanks so, so much for hosting the Celebration today. The worship was great, we really enjoyed listening to Paul, and although we don't have kids, we understand the kids' work was great too. Thank you for your wonderful hospitality afterwards too. It was a delicious meal, and we felt so welcome and looked after, which is an amazing achievement as I believe your fellowship is not huge, so you must all have worked incredibly hard. Many many thanks to all of you" Helen - Gloucester Community Church. Such encouragement to all those who helped, we are sincerely grateful!
- The Leadership Team met this week to discuss getting things in place for the the youth worker and the future of the village playgroup. Please pray about all these matters.
- I had a meeting with Jill this week to talk through booking children in online and we had a practise getting it all wrong haha!
- The Aslan Team all met together to pray for all our children and to discuss Christmas. They were also trained in booking the children in online. Practise this Sunday wahoooo! I hope it goes well!
- Val is meeting with Bob from Teams4u on Friday morning to collect Shoeboxes for this year. Today is the last day to drop off completed boxes at the church. They are also delivering some aid to People in Motion.
- Jon popped in the office this week to discuss HR with our growing staff team. We need to consider lots of implications. Annual Leave, appraisals, logging hours and being a good supportive management team.

Carol Service

David and Mary have the great task of running our carol service this year. Please pray for them as they begin to make plans. Thanks guys :-)

New Youth Worker

Our new youth has signed the formal employment contract and has now been given a start date of the **16th December 2019**. Jill is now gathering information to send to Children in Need to show our recruitment process, acceptance offer and the formalities. Once this has been confirmed Children in Need will then send over the grant in instalments. We will be introducing Alice on **Sunday 1st December at church**. So exciting!

Ale House Lunches

Time to share a success story. For the past 10 months these lunches have been organised as a whole village initiative, shared between Cocochu, St James and Colwall Ladies Club. It has worked very well, with around 30 guests each time. **The Alehouse Christmas Lunch is on December 4th** and is being delivered jointly by all three groups, so no-one has too much to do.

I am a little shy about the next bit as Cocochu has only just finished cooking potatoes and chilli but we have been asked to provide 2 trifles and 4kg of cooked carrots(!), a cooked turkey crown and 3 people on the day to join Val and myself (Jill) 12.00-2.00 to help serve etc.

If you are willing to (yet again) help with any of these things that would be wonderful.

Please contact Jill or Val . This is an event that shows our heart for the village and its lovely to be doing it alongside two other groups.

Silver Street Prayer

Tom will be leading the Silver Street prayer that will be taking place this Sunday evening, 6.30pm @ Walwyn Road.

Women's gathering at gas street Birmingham

29th Feb 2020 - ALL Day

There are a few of us booked onto this women gathering.

Just to say this event is now sold out.

Quiet Morning

Jill's Advent Quiet Morning is fast approaching! It would be good for Jill to have an idea of numbers ready for preparation. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the joy of advent with thankfulness in our hearts.

Wednesday 27th November 9.00-1.00 at Briarcroft - Jill and Jon's.

Please let Jill know by - text/email/phone. Please also feel free to contact the office to book your space.

Office Hours

I will be doing some flexible working for the next little while. You can still contact the office via e-mail or telephone (once the diversion has been set-up), **Generally I will be available mornings.** I will have a solid day in the office every Wednesday 9 am-4 pm if you want to pop in. Otherwise, I will get back to you ASAP. The diversion for the church phone should be set-up by next week. I will provide an update in next weeks newsletter.

***No Update this is still a work in progress but please contact my mobile**

number if you need me*

Last Sunday

Finally a beautiful word was given last Sunday for the "Region" which i feel was greatly significant. Please pray over this word. I have captured most of it. An view of what God is doing and what he will do....Here were the main points:

- He prayed for leaders who have submitted together and paid the high price of Leadership for the blessing of God to fall upon them. That God has seen their sacrafices.
- A patchwork quilt represented the region full of beauty and colour
- He will add more and more patches (people and resource)
- We will see more people pressing in on him (a love for God)
- To add more churches to this group of people (to this region, a heart to plant)
- Different shapes and colours show different giftings in our hearts and lives that will grow. He saw a cross pollination of gifting to travel and move around
- He encourages us to embrace the big things he is doing in our midst
- He said we will be amazed at what he is going to do amongst us. AMAZED!

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday 24th November

Tom will be sharing on Matthew 22 The parable of the wedding banquet

Aslan groups

A rich young man has to choose. Mark 10 v 10-27

Yoof Church

Will be meeting this Sunday

XXXX



Dates for your Diary-

Silver Street Prayer - Sunday 24th November @ Walwyn Road 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

A time of prayer led by Tom for the Silver Street project and all the nitty-gritty detail offered to God.

Advent Quiet Morning - Wednesday 27th November 9 am-1pm

The much talked about "quiet time" that Jill organises is coming up again soon. So many people have heard from God during these times. Come and join us for a time of reflection and inspiration in preparation for the advent season.

Alehouse Lunches - 4th December 12.30 @ the Ale House, Colwall.

The Alehouse lunches offer an opportunity for older people of the community, often living on their own to come together, share a home-cooked meal and enjoy the company of old friends and new. Carers or close family members are also welcome. Transport provided (no charge).

Carols by Candlelight / Fairy light Sunday 22nd December 5pm

A Christmas family celebrations for the village - open to all. Traditional carols and videos.

Christmas Day Service @ Walwyn Road - Wednesday 25th December 10.30am

A short service offering praise and thanks for all he has done.

Want to share in giving?

CoCoChu is entirely supported by the giving of people who come here. If you would like to speak to someone about giving, then see anyone of the leadership team who can point you in the right direction.

Our giving is totally anonymous to all but the finance team – most people give by standing order, but if you prefer there is a black box for offerings and donations on the welcome desk. If you are a tax payer please do sign a Gift Aid form to enable the church to recover tax and make the money go further. Once completed these can be put in the black box.

Bank details if you need them are: Colwall Community Church 09-01-54 73133709.

By everything I did, I showed how you should work to help everyone who is weak. Remember that our Lord Jesus said, "More blessings come from giving than from receiving." Acts 20:35

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