



Colomba
le Roc

Time here in the Lot seems to have flown, and in some ways we haven't managed to do half of what we had hoped to achieve. And yet so much has been done.

First of all there is the chapel of course, the place for our daily prayers of course, but it was also used during the season of Advent for a service of communion by our local English speaking Bible study group, and for the baptism of our grandson Raphael. Through that last celebration we now know (in case we hadn't guessed) that the chapel

is really too small to hold 40 people, though there was one advantage to being so many which was that we had no problem keeping warm.



the chapel



Prayer for Christian Unity at Sacre Cœur Cahors 25 January 2019.

From left to right: Ronan de Gouvello, (RC parish Saint Etienne), Frédéric Nicolas, (Assemblée de Dieu), Joanne Evans-Boiten (church of Scotland), Laurent Camiade, (bishop of Cahors), Jean Vesel, (Russian Orthodox Church), June Hutchinson, (Anglican Church,) Hérizo Ravotomanana, (Eglise Protestante Unie de France).

This means that the chapel will have to be extended with a tent or gazebo on the 9th of June when we will have an Ecumenical service of dedication with the Moderator of our Presbytery blessing our small retreat centre and the Vicar General of Cahors consecrating the chapel. Other clergy will also be involved with the Anglican Priest blessing the font and the Minister of the Eglise Unie de France preaching. And to accompany us the Ecumenical choir will sing! And we hope that this ecumenical and international service will be a true sign of the general outlook of Colomba le Roc.

Further work has been done to the future common room and to the "gardens", With Mary's garden having received the most attention. The common room and a Toilet/shower room suitable for wheelchair users should be ready by the end of spring.



In the mean time much time has been spent filling in forms, making phone calls and having appointments with the Chamber of Commerce for the setting up of our retreat place; the CPAM and the NHS regarding health cover; the Prefecture in the hope of getting a staying permit and many other offices and organisations ... But the good news is that we are now officially a “Micro entreprise“ (hence the number below which I have to mention on anything I write related to the Retreat centre) and that we are, as of

February, medically covered.

Our website(www.colomba-le-roc.org) is now live, though it still needs some work done to it and of course it needs to be translated. I have started on the French translation and hope to have it finished by June. In April we will have a photographer and his wife stay with us for a week and the plan is that this visit will result in a brochure which can be sent or e-mailed to interested parties.

We are encouraged by the comments of this year’s unofficial guests (including two teenagers) who have confirmed that the peaceful surroundings were refreshing and helped them move forward on their spiritual journey.

All Presbytery members are of course invited to join us for the celebrations at 4 PM on 9th June , which is not just the Sunday of Pentecost but also St Columba! However as there will only be two at the most three rooms ready, you will have to sleep , this time at least, at another B&B unless you are happy to bring your tent in which case there is room for all!

Joanne Evans-Boiten
21 February 2019



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