



## Report October 2020



Like everyone else we at Colomba le Roc, have been affected by Covid 19. Though there has been a short window before the UK government's decision that all people coming from France had to go in quarantine on arrival in UK, the overall result has been that we have had no guests from the UK this year.

As until now we have only advertised in the UK (in the publication *Retreats 2020*) the fact that we have had any guests at all is something to be grateful for even if they were mainly family members who were desperate to get away to a safe place once travelling between EU countries was allowed.

Covid 19 health and safety regulations mean that receiving guests has become a very complicated thing and we are still trying to get to grips with what is possible and what not.

On the positive side we had plenty of time to produce flyers which in English, French and Dutch. As we did not know how long Covid 19 would affect our lives we decided not to do a mailing until people things were back to "normal". The situation still being uncertain we now intend to contact individuals, and churches this autumn and send flyers to those who request them.

I also used the lockdown to continue my Facebook journey and develop the Colomba le Roc page (thanks to some initial lessons during my time at St Andrew's Scots Kirk, Malta) . I am still finding my way and trying to use the page not just to update friends on what is happening here but also to explore how one can be a retreat house online. One experiment is to put a picture or more on the page every Sunday related to one of the lectionary readings. I have also started a weekly post on how to create your own quiet/sacred space at home. I continue to do my blog about life at Colomba le roc: [Reverendjoanne.wordpress.com](https://reverendjoanne.wordpress.com)



There was time too to refine our morning and evening liturgies in English and Dutch (French to follow) Weather here and space making worship outdoors possible we have had a monthly Sunday service in English with up to 10 people. Our chapel being small and restrictions being what they are I am not sure what we will do when it will get colder and wetter.

During the last months much other work has been done too and we now have our third bed room ready, which gives us a bit more flexibility regarding the number of guests we can have at any one time. It is of course essential that any future guests feel safe and we are working towards the best way to offer retreats while following government health and safety rules.

For 2021 we have planned two special themed retreats:

- *A Holy Week journey*: 31st March - 5th April 2021
- *Look at the lilies in the field* : 30th April - 3rd May 2021



Finally our website has a new look: why not visit [www.colomba-le-roc.org](http://www.colomba-le-roc.org)?



30th September 2020  
Rev. Joanne Evans-Boiten



As Colomba le Roc is situated 6km from the Pilgrims' route to Compostela, a stay at Colomba le Roc can be combined with a day or two walking on this centuries-old pilgrimage route from Le Puy en Velay .



## Colomba le Roc

More focused accompaniment is possible in English and can be adapted to individual needs. We also organise themed retreats in consultation with our guests. See our website for this year's planned themed retreats:  
[www.colomba-le-roc.org](http://www.colomba-le-roc.org)



## Colomba le Roc

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*"Come to a quiet place  
and get some rest"*



## Looking for spiritual refreshment and inner peace?

Colomba le Roc is a small family-run  
ecumenical retreat house/ B&B  
in SW France

where Joanne and Ian Evans-Boiten will welcome you.

An oasis of peace and ideal environment  
to recharge your batteries, relax, meditate  
and reflect on your life's journey or just to enjoy  
the silence and surrounding nature.

Our chapel, meditative gardens, woods, labyrinth,  
creative space and swimming pool are all  
at our guests' disposal.

