



LLANGASTY

RETREAT HOUSE

History - the House



Llangasty Retreat House was originally built as a large Victorian Rectory, enjoying spectacular views across Llangors Lake towards the western fringe of the Black Mountains. When the Rectory became redundant it was acquired by Miss Dorothy Raikes, (seen here, right, with Sr Faith of the Sister's of Charity, left) who lived nearby and who firmly believed that such a glorious location should continue to serve a Christian purpose.



In so doing she was following a long family tradition - Robert Raikes had founded the Sunday School Movement 200 years earlier, and the decaying parish church had been rebuilt by her grandfather, who also built a school for the children of the parish. Miss Raikes re-opened the building as a retreat house in 1954, and personally managed it for 18 years, until failing health intervened and she donated it to The Sisters of Charity.

In their loving care the House continued to flourish, and gained a wide reputation as a haven for those seeking time and space for reflection and spiritual renewal in a friendly, peaceful, family atmosphere. Ever since its foundation, the work has been actively supported by the Friends of Llangasty Retreat House, who have not only contributed generously to the amenities, but have also helped to foster the sense of continuity and community for which the House is renowned.

Sadly, in 1996 the Sisters felt unable to continue to manage the House, and generously offered it as a gift to the diocese of Swansea and Brecon. A new charitable trust has now been formed to carry forward the Vision of Miss Raikes and the selfless work of the Sisters, under the joint management of the Dioceses of Swansea and Brecon and Llandaff.



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History - Worship

The Parish of Llyn Safaddan comprises; six churches scattered around Llangors Lake.

Llangasty Church is about five minutes' walk from the House. On most Sundays there are services in a number of the churches.

There is also a chapel within the House in which services are conducted according to the requirements of the group.

The Parish church was restored in 1848 by the celebrated architect J L Pearson, who was also responsible for the Raikes family home, Treberfydd, nearby, and for the former school next door to the church - a witness to the Tractarian vision of church and society.



Llangasty is named after the 5th century hermit, St Gastyn, who is venerated nowhere else but in this remote place where his prayers and witness have left their mark.

