**Betws-y-Coed - "Prayer house in the wood"**

 (материал к презентации «Betws-y-Coed –"Prayer house in the wood")

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Betws-y-Coed [ˈbet əs i ˈkɔɪd]

**Betws-y-Coed** ("Prayer house in the wood", Welsh pronunciation: [[ˈbɛtʊs ə ˈkɔɨd]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_Welsh%22%20%5Co%20%22Help%3AIPA%20for%20Welsh)) is a [village](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Village%22%20%5Co%20%22Village) and [community](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_%28Wales%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Community%20%28Wales%29) in the [Conwy valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conwy_valley%22%20%5Co%20%22Conwy%20valley) in [Conwy County Borough](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conwy_County_Borough%22%20%5Co%20%22Conwy%20County%20Borough), [Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales%22%20%5Co%20%22Wales). It has a population of 534. The name Betws or Bettws is generally thought to be derived from the [Anglo-Saxon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxon%22%20%5Co%20%22Anglo-Saxon) [Old English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English%22%20%5Co%20%22Old%20English) *bed-hus*—i.e. a bead-house: a house of prayer, or oratory. The earliest record of the name is *Betus*, in 1254.

Betws-y-Coed lies in the [Snowdonia National Park](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snowdonia_National_Park%22%20%5Co%20%22Snowdonia%20National%20Park), in a valley near the point where the [River Conwy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Conwy%22%20%5Co%20%22River%20Conwy) is joined by the [River Llugwy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Llugwy%22%20%5Co%20%22River%20Llugwy) and the [River Lledr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Lledr%22%20%5Co%20%22River%20Lledr), and was founded around a [monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monastery%22%20%5Co%20%22Monastery) in the late sixth century. The village grew very slowly with the development of the local [lead mining](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead%22%20%5Co%20%22Lead) industry. In 1815, the [Waterloo Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterloo_Bridge%2C_Betws-y-Coed%22%20%5Co%20%22Waterloo%20Bridge%2C%20Betws-y-Coed), built by [Thomas Telford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Telford%22%20%5Co%20%22Thomas%20Telford) to carry the [A5 road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A5_road_%28Great_Britain%29%22%20%5Co%20%22A5%20road%20%28Great%20Britain%29) across the River Conwy and through the village, brought considerable transport-related development. The village became a major [coaching](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coach_%28carriage%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Coach%20%28carriage%29) centre between [Corwen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corwen%22%20%5Co%20%22Corwen) (to the east) and [Capel Curig](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capel_Curig%22%20%5Co%20%22Capel%20Curig) (to the west) on the [Irish Mail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Mail%22%20%5Co%20%22Irish%20Mail) route from [London](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London%22%20%5Co%20%22London) to [Holyhead](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holyhead%22%20%5Co%20%22Holyhead), which led to the improvement of the roads south to [Blaenau Ffestiniog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaenau_Ffestiniog%22%20%5Co%20%22Blaenau%20Ffestiniog) and north to [Llanrwst](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llanrwst%22%20%5Co%20%22Llanrwst) and [Conwy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conwy%22%20%5Co%20%22Conwy). It is a [primary destination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_destination%22%20%5Co%20%22Primary%20destination) for the purpose of road signs.

Construction of [Betws-y-Coed railway station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betws-y-Coed_railway_station%22%20%5Co%20%22Betws-y-Coed%20railway%20station) in 1868 heralded the arrival of the railway line from [Llandudno Junction railway station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llandudno_Junction_railway_station%22%20%5Co%20%22Llandudno%20Junction%20railway%20station), and resulted in the village's population increasing by around 500.

The village has a large [village green](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Village_green%22%20%5Co%20%22Village%20green) which is the playing field for the local [football](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_football%22%20%5Co%20%22Association%20football) team. The green is bounded on its western side by the [A5](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A5_road_%28Great_Britain%29%22%20%5Co%20%22A5%20road%20%28Great%20Britain%29) trunk road, with 19th century buildings, including shops, hotels, and the [Church of St Mary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Mary%27s_Church%2C_Betws-y-Coed%22%20%5Co%20%22St%20Mary%27s%20Church%2C%20Betws-y-Coed). This church was built on the site of a former [cockpit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockfight%22%20%5Co%20%22Cockfight) and [fairground](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fair%22%20%5Co%20%22Fair), and although it is of early English appearance, it was completed as recently as 1873, the internal roof timbers testifying to this relatively young age. The interior also features various types of stone: local bluestone, [sandstone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandstone%22%20%5Co%20%22Sandstone) (and floor tiles) from [Ancaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancaster%2C_Lincolnshire%22%20%5Co%20%22Ancaster%2C%20Lincolnshire), and black [serpentine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serpentine_group%22%20%5Co%20%22Serpentine%20group) from [Cornwall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornwall%22%20%5Co%20%22Cornwall). The square bell tower was added in 1907, and the integral church hall was added in the 1970s, the commemorative stone being laid by the [Earl of Ancaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_of_Ancaster%22%20%5Co%20%22Earl%20of%20Ancaster) in 1976.



Village sign



St. Michael's Church - the original "prayer house in the wood"



Pont-y-Pair Bridge and River Llugwy

On the southern side of the green is [Betws-y-Coed railway station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betws-y-Coed_railway_station%22%20%5Co%20%22Betws-y-Coed%20railway%20station) with cafes and tourist shops and a car park. In the former railway goods yard, reached from the station, is the [Conwy Valley Railway Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conwy_Valley_Railway_Museum%22%20%5Co%20%22Conwy%20Valley%20Railway%20Museum) with its extensive [miniature railway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miniature_railway%22%20%5Co%20%22Miniature%20railway).

Other attractions in the village include the Miners' Bridge and the 14th century church of St. Michael, which is the origin of the name *Betws* (meaning "prayer-house"). There are scenic walks beside the River Llugwy, which flows through the village, and the River Conwy provides further attractions, including the Fairy Glen, the Conwy [Fish pass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish_ladder%22%20%5Co%20%22Fish%20ladder) and [waterfalls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterfall%22%20%5Co%20%22Waterfall) including the Conwy Falls. The Pont-y-Pair Falls are in the centre of the village (also the site of a 53-hole [rock cannon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_cannon%22%20%5Co%20%22Rock%20cannon)), and a mile upstream are the famous [Swallow Falls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swallow_Falls%22%20%5Co%20%22Swallow%20Falls).

The picturesque [Llyn Elsi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llyn_Elsi%22%20%5Co%20%22Llyn%20Elsi) [reservoir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reservoir%22%20%5Co%20%22Reservoir) nearby is popular with walkers and anglers, and also provides water for the village.

The village is also a centre for [outdoor activities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outdoor_activities%22%20%5Co%20%22Outdoor%20activities) and lies within the [Gwydyr Forest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwydyr_Forest%22%20%5Co%20%22Gwydyr%20Forest). The popularity of the area with tourists has led to a proliferation of shops, unusual for a village of this size. Many of these shops specialize in outdoor clothing and equipment, and tend to give the village main street the impression of a retail outlet tastefully designed to be in tune with the landscape, local history and culture.

The village is home to at least one well known [rock band](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_band%22%20%5Co%20%22Rock%20band); [Melys](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melys%22%20%5Co%20%22Melys) were founded there in 1996.

**Public transport**

The Betws-y-Coed railway station, a passenger station on the [Conwy Valley Line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conwy_Valley_Line%22%20%5Co%20%22Conwy%20Valley%20Line) from Llandudno Junction to Blaenau Ffestiniog, is an integral part of the settlement's tourism industry. The train service is operated by [Arriva Trains Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arriva_Trains_Wales%22%20%5Co%20%22Arriva%20Trains%20Wales) and is marketed as the Conwy Valley Railway (Welsh: *Rheilffordd Dyffryn Conwy*).

The railway station is also a bus interchange used by the Snowdonia National Park Sherpa bus services to Capel Curig, [Pen-y-Gwryd](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pen-y-Gwryd%22%20%5Co%20%22Pen-y-Gwryd), [Pen-y-Pass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pen-y-Pass%22%20%5Co%20%22Pen-y-Pass), [Beddgelert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beddgelert%22%20%5Co%20%22Beddgelert), [Porthmadog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porthmadog%22%20%5Co%20%22Porthmadog), [Tryfan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tryfan%22%20%5Co%20%22Tryfan) and [Bethesda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethesda%2C_Gwynedd%22%20%5Co%20%22Bethesda%2C%20Gwynedd). Other connecting bus services operate to [Penmachno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penmachno%22%20%5Co%20%22Penmachno), Corwen, [Llangollen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llangollen%22%20%5Co%20%22Llangollen), Llanrwst, [Trefriw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trefriw%22%20%5Co%20%22Trefriw), [Dolgarrog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolgarrog%22%20%5Co%20%22Dolgarrog), Conwy and [Llandudno](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llandudno%22%20%5Co%20%22Llandudno). The local bus timetables advertise the train services and the "Gwynedd Red Rover" day ticket is valid on Conwy Valley trains as well as the Sherpa and Conwy Valley bus services. A coach park at the station is extensively used by tourist coach operators.

The Conwy Valley Line was constructed by the [London and North Western Railway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_and_North_Western_Railway%22%20%5Co%20%22London%20and%20North%20Western%20Railway) with the primary aim of transporting dressed slate from the Blaenau Ffestiniog quarries to a specially built quay at [Deganwy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deganwy%22%20%5Co%20%22Deganwy) for export by sea. The original plans envisaged a railhead at Betws-y-Coed and a large goods yard was established with intended interchange to a proposed narrow-gauge line (with a significant saving in construction costs) via the steeply graded [Lledr Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lledr_Valley%22%20%5Co%20%22Lledr%20Valley) to Blaenau Ffestiniog. Other entrepreneurs proposed narrow gauge lines from Corwen to Betws-y-Coed, Penmachno to Betws-y-Coed and from Beddgelert to Betws-y-Coed. In the event the line to Blaenau, which was not completed until 1879, was built to standard gauge and the other proposals were abandoned.

Extensive passenger and goods facilities were however provided at Betws-y-Coed, where the station, which was opened in 1868, adjoins the London to Holyhead A5 turnpike road and was thus ideally located to serve many isolated communities in Snowdonia and also the rapidly developing tourist industry. In the LMS timetables the station was listed as "Bettws-y-Coed - Station for Capel Curig". There was originally a passing loop with full length up and down platforms. The loop was removed some years ago but the footbridge that previously gave access to the now-removed down platform has been retained and provides access to the Conwy Valley Railway Museum, which runs a miniature railway and other attractions in the former goods yard.

The comprehensive range of passenger station buildings has been preserved and sympathetically adapted for use as cafes and tourist shops. The station now functions as an unstaffed halt. The platform was refurbished and a passenger information system installed in spring 2009.

http://en.academic.ru/dic.nsf/enwiki/333044

http://betws-y-coed.blogspot.ru

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Betws-y-Coed

https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Betws\_y\_Coed

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Betws-y-Coed