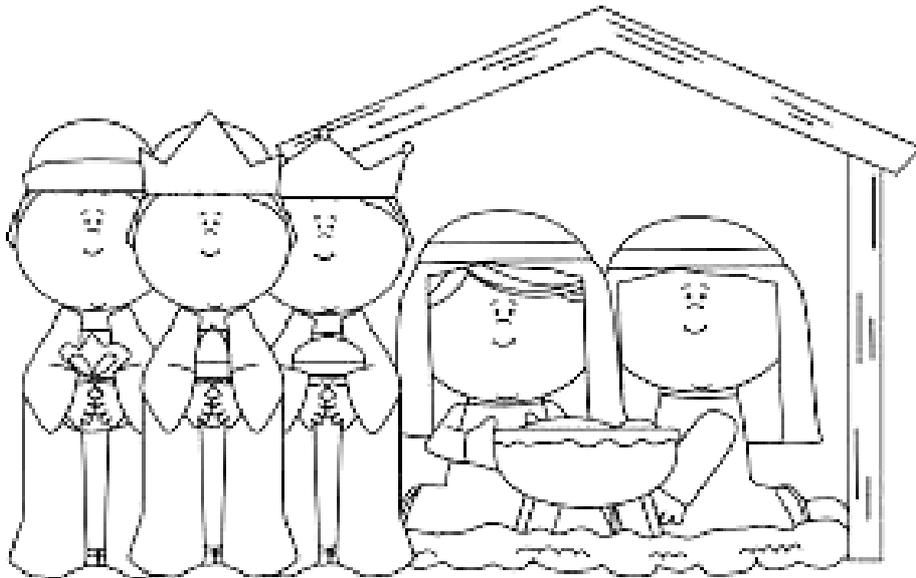


THE BELL

Benefice of East Lonsdale Life:

December 2015 and January 2016



Leck, Melling, Tatham, Tatham Fells, Tunstall, Wray

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

The team of clergy and lay-people who run our Services at the six churches are:

Revd Mark Cannon (Priest in Charge) Tel: 015242 21030
Revd Canon Norman and Dr Ann Dawson Tel: 015242 62936
Peter Osborne Tel: 015242 61029
Mary Winter Tel: 015242 21784

For further details please go to the Benefice website
'Benefice of East Lonsdale'
<http://eastlonsdalebenefice.wordpress.com>

CHURCH CONTACTS

WRAY HOLY TRINITY	Judith Wrigley Ann Anderson	Tel: 015242 21120 Tel: 015242 21173
TATHAM ST JAMES THE LESS	Phyllis Holt Norman Dove	Tel: 015242 21443 Tel: 015242 21557
TATHAM FELLS GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH	Carole Butcher John Wilson	Tel: 015242 63095 Tel: 033300 62270
TUNSTALL ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	Jane Greenhalgh Sue Hunter	Tel: 015242 74260 Tel: 015242 72540
MELLING ST WILFRID	JAC Beeson	Tel: 015242 21638
LECK ST PETER	Joan Withers	Tel: 01539 724201

**This issue is sponsored by
St Peter's Church, Leck**

Sponsorship: if you wish to sponsor an issue as an individual,
in memory of someone, or as a business
please call Carole on 015242 63095 the cost will be £55

**Copy date for the February/March 2016 issue
Sunday 17th January**

**Wishing everyone peace at Christmas
and hope for the year to come**

DIARY OF A LUNE VALLEY VICAR BY MARK CANNON

Saturday: My daughter's wedding day and I am following a satnav through the mean streets of Royal Tunbridge Wells. After a few twists and turns I find myself on an improbable country lane (who would have thought that Southerners have got countryside, eh?). Anyway, time is ticking on and it is with inevitable fate that the country lane turns into a track and a barred gate saying 'Private.' I have no idea where I am and I am alone with the groom's buttonhole. I decide to risk it and open the gate to find myself driving across a fairway of the dog-leg 13th, past a bunker, two scowling golfers and, at last, out of the rough to my destination. I chortle at my triumphant lawlessness and am replete with smugness.

Tuesday (1 month later): On my way to Bradford I pull over my car to make way for blue lights and sirens. However, the police car unaccountably slows down next to my car and the officer points at me and asks me to stop. You cannot really refuse to go and sit in the back seat so there I am in a cop car outside Gargrave Coop. Several residents peep in to catch a glimpse of this hardened criminal, some (i.e. women) actually bend down to have a better look. The upshot is I have to take papers to a police station within seven days. The implacable forces of law and order have gripped me, and squeezed. I wonder if CCTV has emerged of my crime spree?

Sunday: This morning's gospel reading has Jesus in Jerusalem two days before his death. Shortly, he will allow himself to be handed over into the hands of evil men. Soon, he will have no control over his own life. This is our worst fear. Which one of us wants to hand over power to another; to be reliant on others for care; to lose control of our finances; to become a prisoner? In our pride we each want to control and direct our ways and yet Jesus does exactly the opposite. He surrenders himself to others.

I will have to accept whatever others decide about my missing papers. I hate the waiting and I resent my helplessness. It is a foolish pride that each of us holds onto, for none of us is as strong or as clever as he or she thinks they are. When Jesus surrendered all his power, instead of catching a bus back to Galilee, he achieved his life's work. If we let go of our pride, no matter how difficult it is to give up that few hours, or to hand over that cheque, even to set aside that morning for worship, we may find that serves him better.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES

St Peter's, Leck

Norman and Ann conducted a lovely, well attended Harvest Service which was followed by a delicious lunch in the Fraser Hall. The main course was provided by Leck parishioners and yummy puddings by members of Tunstall church. We invited our friends from the Cowan Bridge Chapel and they returned the invitation to us to attend their service the following week. Many thanks to all those who contributed to make the event such a success and special thanks to the staff and pupils of St Peter's School for the beautiful harvest themed window.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas celebrations starting with Choral Evensong with Advent hymns at 6.00pm on Sunday 29 November followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We will have a Messy Church service on Sunday 6th December at 11.00am and the school will be holding its Carol Service in church on Wednesday 16th December at 6.30pm. I am sure this will be a lovely service.

Mark will lead the Village Carols in the Fraser Hall on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm, again with some light seasonal refreshments, and our Christmas Day Sung Eucharist Service will be at 9.30am.

Joan Withers

St James the Less, Tatham

There are many good things to report. Firstly, we had a very moving Remembrance Service arranged and conducted by Norman and Ann and attended by a goodly congregation; incidentally the same number as attended Harvest Festival a few weeks earlier!

Secondly, we had a wonderful evening provided by Leyland Brass Band, a first in Tatham and hopefully not the last. The whole event was expertly organised by the Friends and the full house departed in well-fed good spirits.

We were delighted to welcome Tatham History Society to hear a talk by Dr Sarah Rose about the involvement of the prominent local families in the Wars of the Roses.

On more mundane matters the members of the PCC have resolved to go ahead with the provision of a simple 'brew point' in the northwest corner of the church and to install a disabled toilet in the vestry. Both these projects will require a faculty from the Diocese so do not expect action next week. We do not expect any objections however. The PCC is very grateful to Sue Dawson for all her help and guidance in these projects.

Looking ahead, we hope to welcome our usual full house to our Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm and everyone is invited to The Old Rectory after the service for a mince pie and a glass of wine to set off the Festive Season. We hope Lucy Leather and the Wenning Voices will be able to join us on this occasion.

Last but not least we celebrate Plough Sunday on 10th January 2016 at 11.00am. This is an important date in our rural calendar. In past times the parish plough was blessed in church before being used by the community to prepare the land for the year's harvest. A tradition we feel should be continued to remind us where our food comes from and the importance of farming in our past and future; big bacon butties will be on hand after the service - unmissable!

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. **John Holt**

Holy Trinity Church, Wray

On 1st November we started a new venture for Holy Trinity when we held our first congregation-led 'Evening Prayer' at 2.30pm. We had a good attendance and it was very successful. The time of day seemed to suit many people and the service itself was enjoyed by all. The whole congregation took some part, especially in the singing of the hymns which was exceptional. Thanks to everyone for your support. The service was so successful we are starting to plan our next one which will be on the 6th December, followed by another one on 3rd January. We welcome everyone to join us at these services.

On 8th November we held our village Remembrance Service and as usual the church was full. Our very smart Scout troupe was in attendance with their flag and some of the scouts took the collection. A group of children from Wray School read verses and we were taken into our Remembrance silence by a visiting bugler.

On Tuesday 15th at 7.00pm we will hold our 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Institute. This is beautifully organised by Mary with readings and lots of singing by candlelight. The evening will end with a Jacob's Join supper.

The Wray Village Carol Service will be held on December 20th at 6.30pm in a newly warm Holy Trinity Church. Mince pies will be served at the end of the service. Next year Mary's After School Club will select a charity to support.

Judith Wrigley/Ann Anderson

Good Shepherd Church, Tatham Fells

Our Harvest Festival on Sunday October 4th began with a Family Service at 11.00am, led by Mark and attended by children, staff and parents from Tatham Fells Primary School. Harvest Praise led by Ann and Norman followed in the evening at 7pm. The readings were given by John Lee, John Beck, Eric Baker, John Wilson and Liesel Fox.

At our Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November we made use of our new B4RN connection and linked up to the service live from the Cenotaph in London. Brian Beard, George McIntosh and George Houghton laid the wreath in front of the Roll of Honour at the altar where a single ceramic poppy from the installation at the Tower of London was on display.

Our Christmas Fair is on Saturday 5th December and our service of Carols and Traditional Readings on Sunday 20th December.

Carole Butcher

St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

As I am writing this we are all preparing for yet more flooding in Church Lane and have, for the first time ever that I know about, put sandbags at the front doors of the church. The water has on many occasions been knee deep in the churchyard but it has never entered the church.

I am not seeking re-election as Churchwarden next year, I have enjoyed ten wonderful years and I know I shall miss it but I feel it is time for someone younger to take up the reins. Sue Hunter is our younger and energetic church warden and is doing a splendid job; she is much more organised than I have ever been. It would be good if someone else would put themselves forward for this most satisfying and rewarding position, you would not be alone and it is very much a job you grow into and make your own. If you are interested please speak to Mark, Sue or me.

At the moment we are coping but it is hoped that the Vicarage will be refurbished and we can perhaps welcome a new House for Duty person into our midst in the not too distant future.

Decorating the church for Christmas, followed by a clean, will take place on Tuesday 15th December at 10.00am. Mulled wine, mince pies and mince, instead of coffee, cake and chatter; everybody welcome! We will then remove the decorations and clean the church again on Thursday 7th January.

A very Happy Christmas to everyone and please remember to start the festivities by joining us all in The Lunesdale on Monday December 14th at 7pm for the usual Carol Service led by Mark and the choir, where a collection will be taken for the Homeless Shelter in Lancaster; Thank you Nigel and Anthea for hosting this very popular evening.

Jane Greenhalgh

St Wilfrid's, Melling

Melling has had to make more changes than the other churches in our Benefice following the departure of Robert Hannaford. The long established pattern of weekly worship has given way to a roughly fortnightly pattern, which has produced some unexpected consequences. For example with the heating pattern, a somewhat recent innovation where to keep costs down we have only run the system on a Saturday night. The new pattern should halve the heating costs but as our time clock works on a weekly basis, we have to remember to intervene manually to realise that saving.

On the positive side the change in service pattern has opened up the opportunity to hold more services at 11.00am, which has encouraged a few more to venture out on a Sunday morning. Hopefully when the awful weather lifts and we enter Advent our pews will be packed!

JAC Beeson

CALENDAR OF SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

BCP= Book of Common Prayer

PLEASE NOTE the services are correct at the time of going to press
but the person or persons leading the service may change

DECEMBER

Sunday 6th	Second Sunday of Advent		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion	Melling	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Christmas Family Service with Tatham Fells School	Tatham Fells	Peter and Mary
11.00am	Messy Church	Leck	Mark
2.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Wray	Congregation
Sunday 13th	Third Sunday of Advent		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist and Baptism	Tunstall	Mark
Monday 14	Tunstall Village Carol Service	Tunstall	Mark
7.00pm	in the Lunesdale Arms		
Tuesday 15	Wray Carols by Candlelight	Wray	Mary
7.00pm	in Wray Institute		
7.00pm	Melling Village Carol Service with Melling School	Melling	Mark
Sunday 20th	Fourth Sunday of Advent		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
4.00pm	Christingle Service	Melling	Mark
6.30pm	Wray Village Carol Service	Wray	Mary
6.30pm	Carols and Traditional Readings for Christmas	Tatham Fells	Ann
6.30pm	Village Carol Service in The Fraser Hall	Leck	Mark
Thursday 24th	Christmas Eve		
4.00pm	Crib and Carol Service	Tunstall	Mark
5.00pm	Nativity Service	Wray	Mark
6.30pm	Crib and Carol Service	Tatham	Norman and Ann
11.30pm	Midnight Communion (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	Melling	Mark
Friday 25th	Christmas Day		
9.30am	Family Communion	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Mark
Sunday 27th	First Sunday of Christmas		
11.00am	Benefice Communion	Tatham	Norman and Ann

JANUARY 2016

Sunday 3rd	Second Sunday of Christmas		
9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
9.30am	Morning Service	Melling	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Service	Tatham Fells	Peter
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Leck	Mark
2.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Wray	Congregation
Sunday 10th	First Sunday of Epiphany – Baptism of Christ		
9.30am	Holy Communion	Wray	Mark
11.00am	Plough Sunday Service	Tatham	Peter
11.00am	Sung Eucharist	Tunstall	Mark
2.15pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
Sunday 17th	Second Sunday of Epiphany		
8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Wray	Mark
9.30am	Family Service	Wray	Mary
9.30am	Holy Communion	Tatham Fells	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Holy Communion	Melling	Norman and Ann
11.00am	Morning Service	Leck	Mark
Sunday 24th	Third Sunday of Epiphany		
9.30am	Morning Service	Wray	Norman and Ann
9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tatham Fells	Mark
11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Tatham	Mark
11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Tunstall	Peter
Sunday 30th	Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) Fifth Sunday		
11.00am	Benefice Communion	Tatham Fells	Mark
6.00pm	Choral Evensong	Tunstall	Mark

FROM THE REGISTERS

Melling burial of ashes
Jessie Gregson

Tunstall Baptism
Sophie Alexandra Crackles

A CHRISTMAS WAY ON ISLAY? by Peter Osborne

If, driving off the ferry at Port Ellen, you ignore the main road and turn east you find that the road narrows but that you have found a double Christmas Way – the best whisky in the world (?) and a very, very ancient Madonna and Child.

Whisky, first, as you pass or perhaps do not pass the distilleries of Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg. Then, with a warm feeling, you follow the tiny road till a sign directs you to the right saying ‘Kildalton Church’ and in front of you on a rocky outcrop stands the church, roofless now but holding long memories and many treasures.

There is a car parking area where someone with delightful trust has left an honesty shop: cakes £2 and drinks £1, all set out on a table with a box into which you put your money. Across the road, in a rusty ironwork enclosure, is a splendid Celtic cross which stands alone against the heather-clad hills of the north. When we saw it there was an intensely coloured rainbow across the fells. But it is in the graveyard itself that you meet the great Celtic Kildalton Cross itself. It is the finest in Scotland, a wheel cross with bosses and much decoration. There are several bible scenes: four lions and one being overcome by David; Cain and Abel; the sacrifice of Isaac but most central of all, just under the centre of the wheel, is the Mother and Child flanked by two angels.

The sculpture is very simple and bold but then it has stood out in Atlantic weather for 1,300 years! In a photograph it seems to be flecked with Christmas snow which is in fact the lichen of millennia and it has the power of strong form unfussed by decoration. All around lie those who have been buried there over the centuries, many of them warriors with pointed helmets, chain mail and gigantic claymores carved long ago on grey slate – all at rest having believed in that baby on the old rock-hewn cross.

So here’s a Happy Christmas with a Laphroaig, a jolly time with a Lagavulin, a mellow, warm Christmas with an Ardbeg and most of all a joyful Christmas with that baby on the old time-worn cross in the churchyard of Kildalton on Islay.



Church Services in 2018

Pastor: 'The Lord be with you!'

Congregation: 'And with your spirit'

Pastor: 'Will everyone please turn on their tablet, PC, iPad, Smart Phone and Kindle Bibles to 1 Corinthians, 13:13 and please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon.'

P-a-u-s-e

'Now, Let us pray, committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God'

S-i-l-e-n-c-e

'As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready.'

'You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password Lord909887.'

'The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshippers:

a. Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.

b. Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.

c. Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.'

The holy atmosphere of St. Matthew's becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements.

a. This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out.

b. Thursday's Catechism Study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out.

c. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counselling and prayers.

God bless and have a nice day

And Jesus wept ...

Contributed by Mary Myers

CHILDREN'S CORNER THE HISTORY OF CHRISTINGLES

The idea of Christingles came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747. The minister, John de Watteville, gave children at the service a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Jesus being the light of the world and the final prayer of that first service was 'Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts that theirs like thine become.' The custom went around the world with the church. Members of the Moravian Church settled in England in the 1700s. In Moravian churches the Christingle is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas or on Christmas Eve.

Over the years the symbolism of the Christingle grew into what is known as a Christingle today. Here is what the different parts of the Christingle represent:

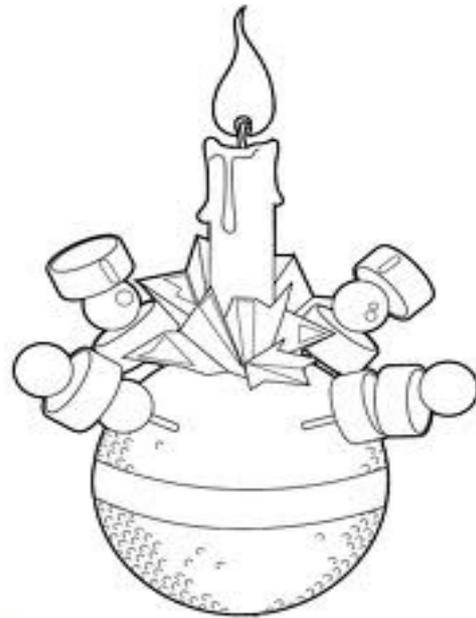
The orange is round like the world

The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.

The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us.

The four sticks point in all directions and symbolise north, south, east and west – they also represent the four seasons.

The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and rain.



Christingles were made popular in England by The Children's Society, one of the earliest children's charities in the United Kingdom (the UK) and it has strong connections with the Church of England. The first Christingle service held in the Church of England was in 1968. The idea came from John Pensom who was also known as 'Mr Christingle'! Christingle services still normally raise money for children's charities.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH 2.00PM – 4.00PM IN WRAY INSTITUTE

Would you like to make some of your own Christmas cards and gifts this year? Come along to Wray Institute and try some card-making and simple crafts. They make great presents for family members.

There will be a small charge of £2 for materials. Refreshments served. Please bring an adult with you!

Contact: Mary Winter 21784

EVENTS AND INFORMATION

**Good Shepherd Church
Tatham Fells
SATURDAY DECEMBER 5TH
10.30am – 12 noon
CHRISTMAS FAIR
in The Old School**

Crafts and cake stalls
Tombola, Bran Tub and Raffle
Visit from Father Christmas
Coffee and mince pies

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
IN WRAY CHURCH
Joyful Noise at 2pm
Thursdays December 3rd
and January 7th
After school club until 4.45pm
Fridays December 4th
and January 15th
Youth Group
Fridays December 4th
and January 22nd
Contact Mary Winter 21784**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENTS
AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

Sunday 6th December

Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells
School Nativity Service
with Tatham Fells School 11.00am

Monday 14th December

Tunstall Village Carol Service in the
Lunesdale Arms at 7.00pm

Tuesday 15th December

Wray Carols by Candlelight
in Wray Institute at 7.00pm
St Wilfrid's Church, Melling
Melling Village Carol Service
with Melling School at 7.00pm

Wednesday 16th December

St Peter's Church, Leck
School Carol Service at 6.00pm

Sunday 20th December

St Wilfrid's Church, Melling
Christingle Service at 4.00pm
Holy Trinity Church, Wray
Wray Village Carol Service at 6.30pm
Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells
Carols and Traditional Readings
for Christmas at 6.30pm
Leck Village Carol Service
in The Fraser Hall at 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

St John the Baptist, Tunstall
Crib and Carol Service at 4.00pm
Holy Trinity, Wray
Nativity Service at 5.00pm
St James the Less, Tatham
Crib and Carol Service at 6.30pm
Good Shepherd, Tatham Fells
Midnight Communion at 11.30pm
St Wilfrid's, Melling
Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES
Holy Trinity, Wray
Family Communion at 9.30am
St Peter's, Leck
Sung Eucharist at 9.30am
St John the Baptist, Tunstall
Sung Eucharist at 11.00am

**HOME COMMUNION
AT CHRISTMAS**

If you find it difficult to get to church but would like to make your Communion at Christmas please contact one of the clergy who will be glad to arrange a home visit.

FARM COMMUNITY NETWORK

A HELPLINE is open from 7.00am until 11pm every day

Tel: 03000 111 999

Website www.fcn.org.uk

ADVERTISING

TUFFETT

Bespoke footstools, ottomans, piano stools

Hand-crafted for you in any fabric or size.
Tiny Tuffets for children to large sofa tables.

I can also re-cover your old stool.

Contact Sue Marsden on 07836 500091

or email sue@tuffett.co.uk

www.tuffett.co.uk

B & W FUNERALS

39 Main Street, Ingleton,
Carnforth, LA6 3EH

Funeral Director

James G Macdonald

Tel: 015242 41293

Home: 015242 61370

Mobile: 07758 002260

BRIDGE HOUSE FARM TEAROOMS

Wray, Lancaster, LA2 8QP

BISTRO NIGHTS

First and last Saturdays
of every month

SUNDAYS

Traditional roasts every Sunday

For reservations Tel: 015242 22496

RT HARRISON & SON **Traditional dry stone walling**

also mortar stone walling,
flag laying and stone facing.
All tasks considered, including
wall gapping on a small scale,
or larger projects

**Call 07792 901 822 or 015242 21156
FOR FREE ESTIMATES**

Jonathan Buss

Painter and Decorator

All types of work undertaken
serving the area for the last 12 years

FOR FREE QUOTES

Tel: 015242 51809 or 07956 582 565

email:

sheilanjonathan@btinternet.com

Lune Valley Physiotherapy.

Specialist experience working with
scarring and tightness from surgery,
injury and radiotherapy, and with
people who have or have had cancer.

Leah Dalby MSCP 07934 785 797

email: leahthephysio@gmail.com

FEET FIRST MOBILE CHIROPODIST

For the professional treatment
of foot problems call Karen Salisbury

Tel: 07508 477 207

email: feetfirst@live.co.uk

Fully registered and insured

ROGERSON'S Commercial and Domestic Window Cleaning

MAKING A CLEAR DIFFERENCE

Call Mark Rogerson

Tel: 07876 087 888

email: Rogger_79@hotmail.co.uk