

Young and old, from Trusham and beyond, joined us this year for our Rogation Walk to enjoy our beautiful local scenery and all it has to offer. Paul Wimsett, our vicar lead us as we walked past the War Memorial, stopping to remember all those who suffered and gave their lives during the First World War which came to an end 100 years ago, later this year.

Walking down through the fields, we viewed varieties of sheep and their young lambs. And then when we reached Tinkley, we received a warm welcome from Paul and Steve, and were given a most interesting tour of the area. It was fascinating to look down to the bottom of the quarry, opened up about 150 years ago, to meet the great demand for road building stone chippings, and then closed in the 1930s. We could see the old workings too. The quarry had then gradually filled up with water until it was emptied about a year ago; and we heard about the reasoning for this. A great opportunity to look back in a bit of local history.

We learnt about the varieties of stunningly beautiful pheasants,(Himalayan Monal, Lady Amhurst, Reeves, and Golden, with gloriously colourful plumage), three types of peacocks, the males displaying their amazing tail feathers to attract potential mates, not to mention the Egyptian ibis, and elegant African grey crowned cranes.

We were then treated to a delicious BBQ with wine and soft drinks. We returned to the village through the field of pigmy goats and rheas (South American) which was quite an adventure, as many of us were a little wary of their somewhat exuberant nature: however, we need not have worried as George, who helps at Tinkley, kindly escorted us and kept at bay the big male rhea, keen on protecting his females

(understandable - it is the mating season and Paul is hopeful that they may successfully breed this year) as he fluffed up his feather, looking even more like a ballerina in a tutu! We were greatly entertained as the rheas ran at extraordinary speed around the field, with such a strange gait.

Thank you, Paul and Steve and George, and the BBQ caterers - we had a brilliant afternoon, and the weather was kind to us too!

Angela