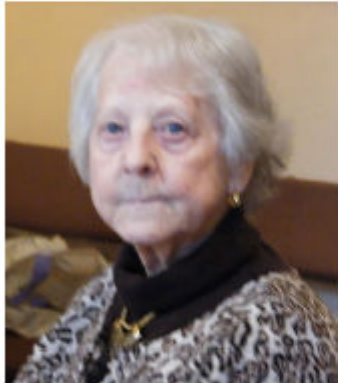


A very happy and healthy New Year to all our readers

Congratulations to some of St Ignatius' parishioners who celebrated birthdays in December including Ruth, who plays at Sunday Mass in St Igs, and was 21, to Helena who is now 80 and to Ellen who is an amazing 94!



Ellen Jones is a real feisty lady who lives near St Ignatius Church and regularly attends weekday morning Mass. She has a brilliant turn of phrase and is very amusing especially with stories from her youth.. She worked in cotton mills including making dressings at Vernon's, ran a café and had a shop. She also did sterling work for the church. Today

she and her good friend Helena support each. Both of them attended the ladies Christmas party organized by Doreen and Marion . Geoff sorted out the food and everyone had an enjoyable time eating and playing Bingo.



So welcome to 2010 and goodbye to the Noughties. Remember this is *your magazine* so please continue to send us information and tell us your stories. Geoff, Lesley, Cynthia & Margaret want to hear from you Put material in the boxes at the back of church or email enigmaarticles@blueyonder.co.uk



What a surprise - a white Christmas in Preston - a very rare event. Not good news for those who slipped - hope Pat (B) Margaret (M), Terry and Susan are feeling better A wonderful experience for the children who built snowmen, made slides, threw snowballs sledged and generally had lots of fun..

The whole area was transformed and there were excellent photo opportunities but we didn't expect it to go on so long and the temperatures to sink so low.

A big thank you to all those who looked after elderly neighbours and gave them lifts to church services, and social events and checked they were OK for food . Continue the good work!



Parish Walk



On Saturday December 12th seven of us went to Nicky Nook near Scorton. The weather was cold but a beautiful clear day so we had fantastic views to the south, the Welsh hills to the North the Lake District and Barrow. We also managed to find an open hostelry!

The next walk –weather permitting– will be on Saturday 16th January to East Lincs. Let Fr Tom know if you are interested

Visit to Poland

Twenty of us went to Krakow, Poland for what is now an annual trip. We stayed at the Divine Mercy Shrine on the outskirts of the city. We spent two days in the city with its wonderful Christmas markets and historical sites We tried bigos with plums and drank copious amounts of hot wine . Then we travelled south to the Tatras Mountains to the ski resort of Zaczopane but sadly no snow except on the mountain tops!

We had a fascinating visit to the Wieliczka salt mines - a World Heritage site. It has a n a m a z i n g underground chapel with chandeliers and carvings all made from salt. Thanks to Fr Alex who makes our trips so enjoyable. He is hoping to organize a summer trip in August for 9 days . Look out for details in the parish newsletter.



Christmas and Advent



are very busy times in our churches. During the 4 weeks of Advent we had some wonderful services including Christingle, and an Advent service where we considered the plight of people living in Bethlehem today—we watched part of a DVD made by the Amos trust which we hope to show fully The crib in English Martyrs, with its separation

wall, and Fr Tom's powerful homilies during the Christmas period supported the Christians of Bethlehem.. Jesus was born into a very troubled land under Roman Occupation. Over the years with the aid of school Nativity plays etc a lovely comforting story has built up . Those of us lucky enough to travel to the Holy land or as someone dubbed it the Unholy land saw a very different reality and we feel it necessary to speak and act.

On St Stephen's day we had a combined Mass with the Polish Community which included a wedding and two baptisms!

Then on the Epiphany, Gift Sunday ,we were overwhelmed by your generosity. So far we have delivered bags of clothes to the Salvation Army. Alex who works at the Foxton Centre collected lots of toiletries and clothes and we have oodles of socks for the Franciscans.

On that afternoon we had a Ecumenical Carol Service with contributions from choirs and instrumentalists from the Polish community, Emmanuel Church English Martyrs and St Ignatius. What a wonderful way to round off the season!

