



Rev. Dr. Jean Wadsworth, Vicar of All Saints, New Eltham has been to see

'The Goat'

When one initially mentions a play about a man falling in love with a goat, there is nervous laughter. Titters assume that the play is farcical or salacious.

Edward Albee ("Who's afraid of Virginia Wolfe?") writes wittily but seriously and sensitively.

He describes his latest play "The Goat" as being about "love and loss, the limitations of tolerance and who we really are."

Watching the superb cast, led by Jonathan Pryce at the Apollo Theatre (Shaftsbury Avenue), I found myself challenged about my own ethical stance. How do I decide who or what is "beyond the pale"?

I like to think that my standards and attitudes are formed by my biblical, Christian beliefs. But are there other, less worthy elements affecting me?

If you are interested in ethical and moral discussion, see this play, preferably with friends who have different ideas from your own!

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Your chance to hear...

Chiara Lubich, founder of the Focolare

Chiara Lubich, founder of the international Focolare movement, will give the keynote address at an all day meeting at Westminster Central Hall on Saturday 19 June.

Bishop Hugh Montefiore writes:

As a young teacher Chiara Lubich spent a lot of time in air raid shelters at Trent in Italy during the last war.

While there she and her friends read the Gospels and determined to live gospel lives.

Out of this has grown a huge lay movement the Focolare, which has become international

and ecumenical - there are literally thousands of Focolarini in 198 countries, including Anglicans in Britain.

Chiara has become a world figure, and has spoken to large gatherings of other faiths as well as politicians and Christians.

Her economic project, 'The Economy of Communion', was launched in Brazil in 1991.

The Focolare have a special vocation to promote unity. In



July she is visiting Britain where she will meet privately with Archbishop Rowan Williams and Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor and address parliamentarians.

On 19 June she will give the keynote address on "What future for a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-faith society?" at Westminster Central Hall.

Tickets (£12 waged, £9 unwaged) are available from bookings@focolare.org.uk or 01707 336413.



June

There are a great many resources around to help us to pray. On the official website of the Church of England there is a section called 'An Invitation to Prayer' on which is the following prayer which is called 'A Child's Prayer'. We offer it this month as part of our keeping of the International Year of the Family.

Lord in heaven, please listen to all those who are praying to you now.

Those who are sad and crying, those who have lost friends and family.

Those who are alone and frightened.

Help them to remember, that you are there and you are listening.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

Canon Andrew Nunn, Sub-Dean of Southwark Cathedral

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Children who enjoy school on Saturday!

Children at Christ Church & St Stephen Battersea are not satisfied with five days a week at school, they are now attending on Saturday mornings as well!

Thanks to a member of Christ Church congregation, Mr Brian Badi, who is a trained teacher, a new Saturday school has been established in the Parish Room. It is being supported by the Mundri Relief & Development Association - an organisation for nationals of Uganda.

Brian Badi reports: "We started in January with 5 children, now 16 are attending regularly for help with revision and homework. The atmosphere is kept informal and friendly, yet busy. The children enjoy it, with everyone free to ask questions, express views and make suggestions for improvement. The children relate well to each other.

Their hard work last term was rewarded with prizes for effort and achievement, presented by Christ Church's Vicar, Canon Peter Clark.



Walk the bridges with Noddy!

This year join children's TV favourite Noddy and friends on the 7th annual Children's Society London Bridges Walk on Saturday, 18 September.

The walk starts from 10am at the Tate Modern (Bankside SE1), where children can have their photo taken with Noddy. Choice of five or 10-mile circular routes - both wheelchair and pushchair friendly. Once you've finished the walk join in some of the activities happening along the South Bank riverside walkway as part of the Thames Festival. The area will be alive with music stages, street theatre, and food and craft stalls. Walkers over 16 make a donation of £5 to register and are asked to raise as much sponsorship money as possible. The registration fee for children is £2.

To sign up call The Children's Society on 0845 300 1128.

25th birthday for homeless project

Deptford Churches Centre will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Friday 2 July when Robina Rafferty, Chief Executive of Housing Justice will speak at lunchtime meeting.

The charity - a day care centre for homeless and marginalized people - used to meet in the crypt of St Paul's Church and last year moved to 'new' premises - a purpose-adapted building in Speedwell Street.

The centre opens Monday to Friday 9am to 3.30 serving around 400 meals and

countless cups of tea and coffee every week; offering housing advice, education support, laundry and shower facilities; somewhere to meet friends to chat or read newspapers and books (literacy classes available) and a listening ear in time of need.

The centre operates an 'open-door' policy with just four ground-rules - no alcohol, no drugs, no violence and mutual respect.

If you would like to know more about the 2 July meeting or the work of the centre (or even offer financial or volunteer support) give them a call or 0020 8692 6548 or email: deptfordcc@btconnect.com.

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