



Brushstrokes Messenger

Issue 27

1st April 2011

Easter Reflection

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With Easter being so late this year we find ourselves with yet another two weeks left of Lent. For those who have given up chocolate, cake or some other creature comfort it may feel as though Lent will never end. Indeed, it is easy to see this period before Easter as a time of struggle and difficulty, in which the darkness of winter still lingers on. However, viewed another way it is a time in which we can learn to hope; to look beyond what we can see at present and hope in something better that has not yet come.



Easter celebrates the fulfilment of that hope. In Jesus' resurrection from the dead we rejoice in the triumph of good over evil; love over hate; friendship over betrayal; and life over death. In the words of Maiti Girtanner --- a French woman who was cruelly tortured in the second world war, yet later offered complete forgiveness to her persecutor --- "You see, evil is not strongest." Today, many people in our society are facing lives that are marked by struggles and difficulties. In light of so much pain and suffering it is easy to be filled with despair and feel a sense of powerlessness to help. Let us not be defeated by this, however. Instead, let us be inspired, this Easter, to hope. Let us refocus on those things that give us hope, whether it be the flowers and animals found in nature or the friendships and family we are part of. Let us find ways to be signs of hope for others; so that together we may hope in a better future for everyone.

Brushstrokes is closed during the week beginning Monday, 11th April. We are open for those needing practical resources on Thursday, 14th April from 1 pm—4 pm and on Friday, 15th April from 9 am—4 pm.

Royal Wedding Street Party

Friday 29th April
12noon – 2pm

Food & Drink
All Welcome—bring the family!

**ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC CHURCH
MESSENGER ROAD
SMETHWICK**

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2011

EASTER TRIDIUM

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, 21st April:

7.30 pm

**Mass of the Last Supper
Watching after Mass
{until 10.00 pm}**

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, 22nd April:

3.00 pm

**Solemn Passion of the
Lord with passion liturgy for
children**

2.15 pm

Stations of the Cross

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, 23rd April:

7.30 pm

Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, 24th April:

10.00 am

Easter Morning Mass

**Support for Eastern European Women
to access Maternity Care Services**

Brushstrokes has just received some MIF (*Migrant Impact Fund*) funding to support women mainly from A2 (*Romania & Bulgaria*) but also from A8 countries (*Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia*) to access appropriate Maternity care provision. We aim to do this through advice giving and befriending. We are currently recruiting volunteers from those backgrounds to help us deliver the project. Full training will be provided. If you are interested in helping us and have a little time to spare please call Sandra on 0121 565 5011 or 07525 688396 to find out more.

Greenfields Consultation Feedback Session

Tuesday, 19th April 2011 from 11 am—12.30 pm.

Venue: Brushstrokes, St Philips Centre, Messenger Road, Smethwick, B66 3DU

Please come along to find out what is happening for health support for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

Who do Brushstrokes support?

Brushstrokes support newcomer families in the Smethwick area of Sandwell and beyond. Currently, there are people from 67 different countries who access our services. Local families in need are also welcome to access our services.

We offer ESOL classes (English for speakers of other Languages), Home visiting and Befriending and Family support as well as Advice and Guidance for jobseekers, health and immigration. There is also provision of living essentials and food parcels to those who are destitute. If you have any queries about our services please call 0121 5652234.

African French Seaking Community Support

We held an important event on 2nd April 2011. There was an exhibition of African Art such as paintings, pictures, sculptures and clothes. This was followed by our first General Assembly meeting. More than 50 people from different African French speaking communities attended to support the organisation. Members of the provisional Management Committee presented AFSCS's constitution, aims and objectives. Afterwards members of the new Management Committee were elected: Jacques Matensi-kubanza (Chair); Michael Dosse (Vice-Chair), Jason Ndundula (Secretary), John Mwanga (Treasury), Didier Mananga (Events Organiser), Alain Balanda (Press and Information) and Ben Ntivun (Advisor).

On behalf of the African French community, the Management Committee would like to thank Urban Living and Brushstrokes Community Centre for the support given for the success of this event. We are also very grateful to Sandwell Homes and Derek Fletcher for the financial assistance allocated for this event. We also thank members of other organisations who attended this event for instance: Teresa Clement, Shomari and Ernest as well as our volunteers. **For more information about AFSCS, call:**

Jacques Tel. 07743 600034, Jason Tel. 07886 659300, Michael Dosse Tel. 07922881882 or John Mwanga Tel. 07930834260



ESOL and Numeracy EASTER HOLIDAYS

All classes finish by Thursday, 7th April.

There are no classes from 7th to 25th April inclusive (Brushstrokes is closed on Monday, 25th April.)

Most classes start again on 26th April. There are some differences in the Halesowen class dates.

Please ask your class teacher, or Vivien, for the dates of your next class. Our phone No. 0121 565 2234.

HALESOWEN classes ENROLMENT DATES :

Entry 2 – Tuesday, 3rd May

Entry 3 – Level 1 – Thursday, 5th May

Please remember to bring your passport or ID and benefit evidence or enrolment fee.

What's on at Smethwick Library

April 2011

Monday

Bollywood Fitness Session
4.30 pm—5.30 pm

Pathways to Enterprise
Guidance for self-employment
10.30 am—4.30 pm

Tuesday

Krunch
11—16 years youth activities
3.30 pm—5 pm

Wednesday

Depression Support Group
6th and 20th April
3 pm—4 pm
For more information ring 0121 5652788.

Homework Support Group
5—11 year old children
1.30 pm—5.30 pm

Thursday

Make Friends with a book
At the Bookworm café, Smethwick Library
10.30 pm—12.30 pm

Friday

Sandwell Mind Drop in
10.30 am—1.30 pm

Saturday

Punjabi Reading & Writing Group
1 pm—3 pm
Family oriented group aimed at those wanting to learn Punjabi

Activities and Services at Brushstrokes

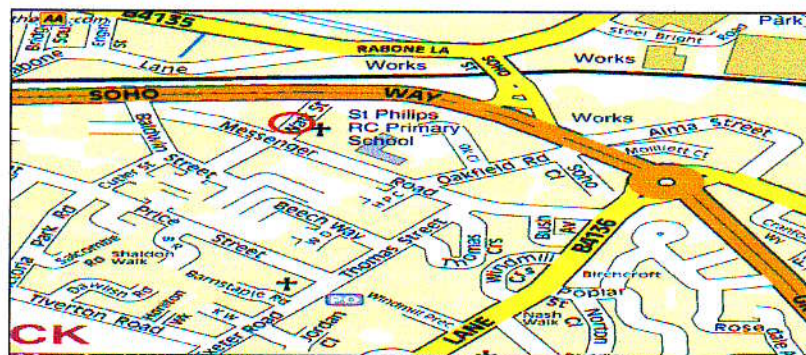
	Course/event	Time	Day/Frequency	Provided by
Monday	Health Advice	10 am—4 pm	Weekly by appointment	Health Trainer
	ESOL Entry 1	10 am—12 pm	Weekly	Sandwell College
Tuesday	ESOL Pre-entry	10 am—11.30 am	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	ESOL Entry 1	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	ESOL Entry 2	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Halesowen College
	ESOL Literacy	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	ESOL Entry 3/Level 1	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Brushstrokes
Wednesday	ESOL Pre-entry	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	ESOL Literacy	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	Health Advice	10 am—12 pm	Weekly by appointment	Health Advice
	Numeracy	1 pm—3 pm	Weekly	SAFL
Thursday	ESOL Entry 3/Level 1	9.30 am—11.30 am	Weekly	Halesowen College
	ESOL Entry 1	10 am—11.30 am	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	ESOL Pre-entry	10 am—11.30 am	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	ESOL Entry 2	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Brushstrokes
	Stay and Play	1 pm—2.30 pm	Weekly	Sure Start
	Uk On-line Computer Class	1 pm—3 pm	Weekly	Brushstrokes
Friday	Immigration Surgery	10 am—3 pm	Weekly by appointment	ASIRT
	Counselling		Weekly by appointment	Brushstrokes
	Health Walk	9.30 am—10.30 am	Weekly	Health Trainers
	Health Advice	11 am—4 pm	Weekly by appointment	Health Trainers

Where we are:

Brushstrokes
St Philips Parish Centre
Messenger Road (Watt Street)
Smethwick
West Midlands
B66 3DU

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 Fax: 0121 565 2234

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 Website: www.brushstrokesproject.org.uk



Brushstrokes receives support from:



Henry Smith Charity



Quality Standards



St Philip's

