**Windows of Opportunity** is a resource for Key Stage 2 Church of England Primary Schools. The lessons are as follows:

Lesson 1: Saying goodbye

Lesson 2: Travelling

Lesson 3: Arriving

Lesson 4: Going to School

Lesson 5: Support in a new country

Lesson 6: The Holy Spirit – Jesus is with us wherever we are.

The lessons are focused around the stained glass windows of Christ Church Armley. Each lesson draws on a figure/picture depicted in the window as follows:

Lesson 1: The Last Supper

Lesson 2: St Christopher (the patron saint of travel)

Lesson 3: St George (the patron saint of England)

Lesson 4: Jesus teaching children

Lesson 5: St Nicholas

Lesson 6: The Bible and Christ’s teachings

There is commentary on the figure/scene in the slide and further information in the notes.

Alongside this, we follow the story of Omar and his brother Hassan in the graphic novel ‘When Stars are Scattered’ by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson. Faber and Faber 2020. London. It is not essential to use this with the resource but rather it is an optional addition. In the notes section in the ppt, you can find the page numbers for the relevant section of the story. In summary, it is the story of two young unaccompanied boys whose childhoods are spent in Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya.. We follow their lives being torn away from family, travelling through Somalia and Kenya and eventually arriving in Dadaab. We learn about Omar’s experience of school here and his dilemma about whether to attend or to spend his days with his brother who does not attend school. We learn about the agonising waiting that seems to never end, to find out whether they will be resettled in a new country. Finally, the good news comes and they leave full of hopes and dreams.

As well as the stained glass windows and the graphic novel, we follow the real life story of a child at a school of sanctuary in Leeds. Samuel (not his real name) is from Eritrea and his story is described on the slides in accordance with the themes.

Each lesson starts with ‘starter questions’ and includes ‘discussion starters’ and ‘activity suggestions’ based on the themes and finishes with a prayer. Why not visit Christ Church Armley to see the windows featured and plenty more?

I hope you find this a helpful resource in teaching about refugee themes and raising awareness of the goodbyes, the journeys, the waiting, the danger and difficulties that refugee and asylum seeking children have faced before they arrive in a classroom in England. May you also realise their resilience and tenacity. Katherine Hogg, Author. Schools of Sanctuary, Leeds. Contact: sanctuary@leedschurchinstitute.org