



Holy Trinity Church and Leverstock Green CE Primary School

Our second **Woodland Worship** on Tuesday 21st February 2023 provided the perfect opportunity to explore the history and meaning of Shrove Tuesday, as well as introducing worshippers to Ash Wednesday and different ways of observing Lent.



Once the opening snack in the outdoor classroom had settled rumbling tummies, we settled around the fire pit to start our worship with a prayer and song.



Having quickly established that it was Pancake Day, we discovered that pancakes were first mentioned in cookery books as far back as 1439, and we celebrated its long history with our own pancake flipping competition!

We then explored the meaning of Shrove Tuesday and how being shriven – forgiven – of our sins by God, allows us to turn our lives around and start again – rather like flipping a pancake to cook the other side!



We remembered how the next day, Ash Wednesday, starts the period of Lent, reminding us of Jesus' time in the desert, fasting and planning how to spend his life healing the sick and teaching people about God. Similarly, our own practice of giving up something for Lent allows us keep our lives simple to be able focus on God.



Our activity was to decide how we might conversely 'take something up' this Lent and we walked around the school's keep fit track, reading signs and discussing questions such as, '*Can I be a better friend?*' '*Can I pray – chat to God?*' '*Can I be thankful for everything I have?*'

After reflecting on our questions, Revd. Lizzie explained the practice of burning palm crosses for the next day's ash – and promptly gave an exciting demonstration!



Our worship finished with a prayer and a song, swiftly followed by a feast of pancakes, and the now traditional toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate!



Repeated thanks to the diocese for their further grant of £250 which has secured the future of *Woodland Worship* at Leverstock Green.