

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



The Honiton (Devon) lace Christening gown made in 1841 for Queen Victoria, and used for all royal infants, has been retired. Prince George and Princess Charlotte wore a replica at their Baptisms.

Chrisom

Chrisom, not to be confused with chrism, was the white garment required for the baptismal rite by the First Prayer Book (1549). It was ordered that the infant be dipped or immersed (3 times) and then returned to the sponsors “to put upon him his white vesture, commonly called the Chrisom.” White symbolizes new life, purity and the Resurrection.

Formerly the mother brought the Chrisom to her churching (see Glossary.) The Rite is in the Prayer Book before the Psalter.

Rev. Percy Dreamer in his *The Parson's Handbook* (1909) makes the suggestion that “if he (the priest) be inexperienced he should ask some woman to instruct him in the proper manner of holding babies.”