

## ***Baptism Basics!***

Exodus 16<sup>2-4,9-15</sup>; Psalm 78<sup>23-29</sup>; Ephesians 4<sup>1-16</sup>; John 6<sup>24-35</sup>

*We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.*  
[Eph 4<sup>15</sup>]

It is a great privilege to share with Elma in her Baptism (not least as her family have become regular worshippers here at St Mary's).

But what does Baptism do? Why is it important?

For that we turn to the reading we had this morning from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

- ✦ Baptism is about the call of God to be a Christian. **One lord, one faith, one baptism.** The words in the service that I find most moving are at the *Chrismation* when I say *Christ claims you for his own!*
- ✦ Baptism is about charging parents and godparents to take their responsibilities seriously. **Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.** You, supported by the Church, have to show the baptised what Jesus is like in how you live and in what you say. The list of characteristics that Paul comes up with is a good beginning: **humility, gentleness, patience, love and peace.**

Infuse a tea bag in a cup of boiling water - the point is that you have to be immersed into the Church for it to be of any use!
- ✦ Baptism is about the Church - every baptised person is a member of the Church. They need to be brought up to know that God has made them, that God has given them unique gifts and that those gifts are to be used where God has placed them. The challenge is that the Church becomes what it should be - a community in which **each part is working properly** and where that community is **building itself up in love.**

We can depend on God - he will do his bit! Can God depend on us?