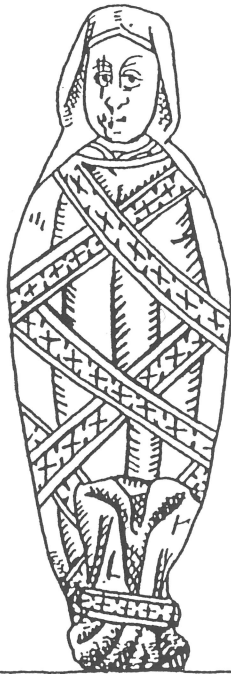


Chrisoms

Chrisoms, or chrisom-children, are often imaged with their mothers or in their mother's arms on tombs and brasses, especially of the Tudor period: they are children who died in infancy, shown swaddled over the chrisom-cloth which surrounds their heads (and shrouded them under the swaddling bands). This chrisom-cloth, our modern christening robe, was worn for a month after the sacrament of baptism. In the service (see Edward VI's First Prayer Book of 1549) the child was first baptized with water, after which the priest 'put upon him his white vesture, commonly called the Crisome', saying 'take this white vesture for a token of the innocence which by Gods grace in this holy sacramente of Baptisme, is given unto the'. The priest then anointed the child with the mixture of oil and balm, which was itself the chrism, chrisom or cream (from the same word), chrisom coming to be used in short for both the chrisom-cloth and the chrisom-child.



Of Rog^r the gentima here
With the son: Benedict the
crisom ishor soule ihu p do