

Pastor's Patch: Bathtime



There are few things more enjoyable than a lovely warm bath. Kids love it, adults covered in mud and muck can get clean in it, and those who are tired and weary can luxuriate in it. Whatever the excuse, the person coming out of the bath feels fresh and clean.

Many would suppose the first baptism (or mass bath!) in the Bible happened with Jesus, or John the Baptist. However, it actually occurred in the Old Testament and involved Noah and his whole family.

We surely know the story of Noah and his ark. Many of us first heard the story in Sunday school or in school assemblies. Noah was the man told by God to build a wooden ark to protect him, his family and all the animals from the flood that God was going to send on the world. And weeks later as they walked out of the ark, they came into a new world, temporarily washed clean of the stain of sin that so many others had committed.

Peter wrote about this in his letter to the Church, saying...

And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter ch3 v21)

As two friends are baptised next Sunday (28th September), we will be reminded of this picture of baptism – a bath to celebrate the **permanent** washing away of their sin, replacing it with a clean conscience towards God. That certainly is *effective because of the resurrection of Jesus!*

If you or your friends haven't been baptised, I hope you and they can come next Sunday to see this picture for yourself. It's always a wonderful bath!

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