

**THE HOLY COMMUNION, A COURSE OF
SERMONS, PREACHED ON THE SUNDAYS
IN LENT AND EASTER DAY, 1871, IN THE
PARISH CHURCH OF CHIPPING
SODBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

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The Holy Communion, a Course of Sermons, Preached on the Sundays in Lent and Easter Day, 1871, in the Parish Church of Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire by J. P. F. Davidson

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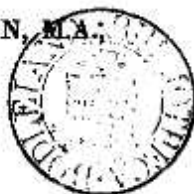
Parish Church of Chipping Sodbury,

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

BY

J. P. F. DAVIDSON, M.A.

VICAR.



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P R E F A C E.

THESE Sermons profess to be no more than a very elementary exposition of the high Subject with which they deal.

They were written originally, not for publication, but as a parochial instruction on the Holy Eucharist during the Sundays in Lent. And their main purpose was, to draw out from the Scriptures, and set forward in plain and simple language, the Sacramental Mystery, with a view to removing some prevailing misconceptions, and putting before the congregation the essential connection of that Mystery with other mysteries of the Christian Faith, and with the Christian Life.

In this attempt I have been much aided by

the suggestive Pamphlet of the Rev. W. W. English, "*Thoughts on the Holy Communion*," and the valuable little "*Treatise on the Holy Eucharist*," by the Rev. J. R. West.

In many places, I am aware, correctness of style has been sacrificed to plainness of speech; technical accuracy of theological statement to the desire to make the truth intelligible.

But I have preferred printing the Sermons almost entirely as they were preached, in the hope that they may thus serve, to those who listened to them, as a little Memorial of holy hours passed together in the House of God; and perchance also, by their very plainness, be of some use to a wider circle of readers.

The more my experience of parochial work is enlarged, the more I feel convinced that, in our country parishes no less than in our towns, the real root of the wide-spread unbelief in Sacramental Grace lies deeper than in any mere difference of so-called Church views, and is, in fact, part of that practical Scepticism which, under whatever name, sets itself, often uncon-

Preface.

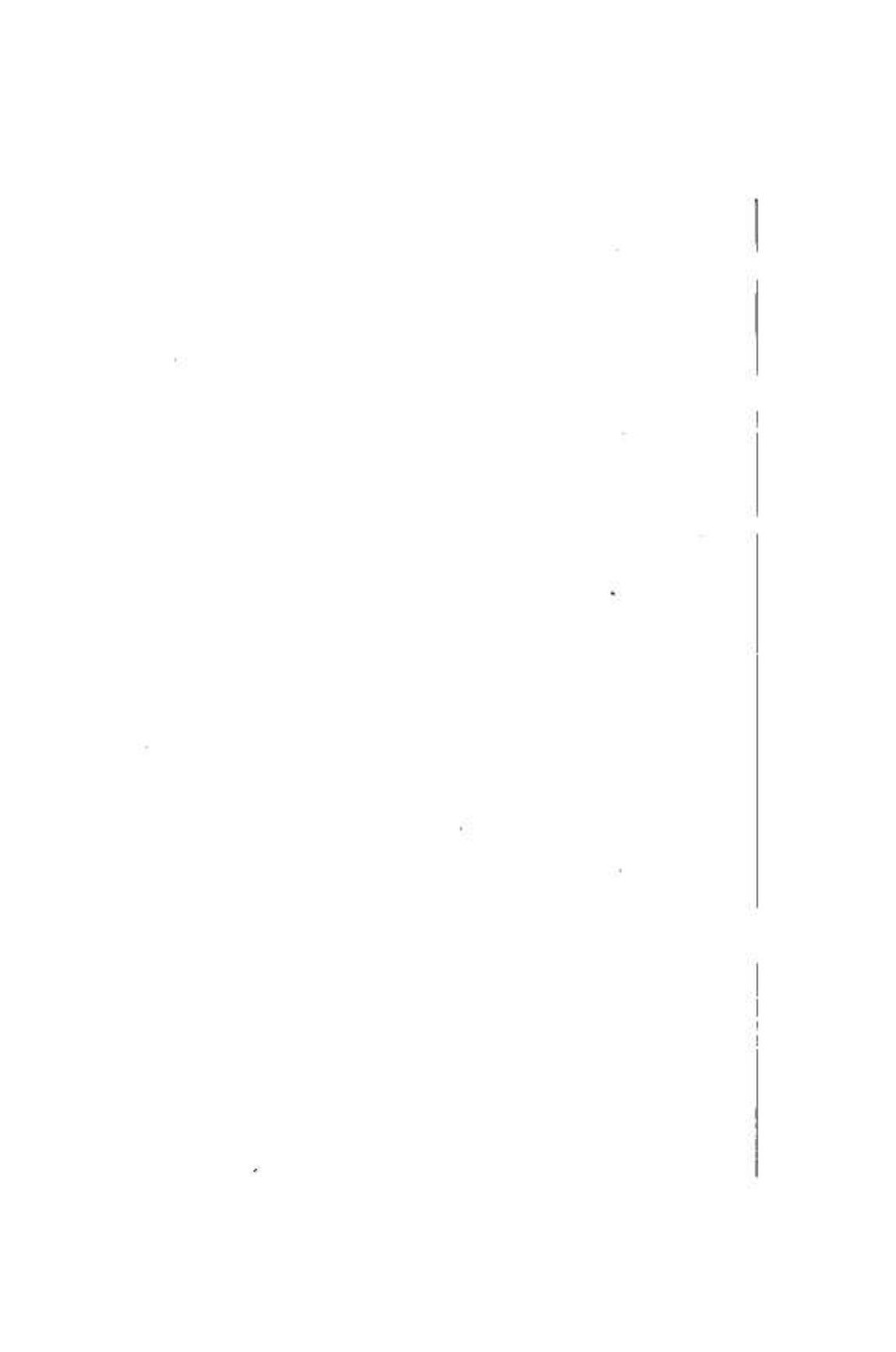
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sciously, against the Supernatural character of the Christian Revelation as a whole.

Faith in the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist is more deeply connected than many think with faith in Revelation and in the Person of CHRIST.

May GOD be pleased to overrule for good all defects and imperfections in the following Sermons, and mercifully to vouchsafe His Blessing on them, for His Dear SON's sake, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

CHIPPING SODSBURY VICARAGE;
Ascensiontide, 1871.



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