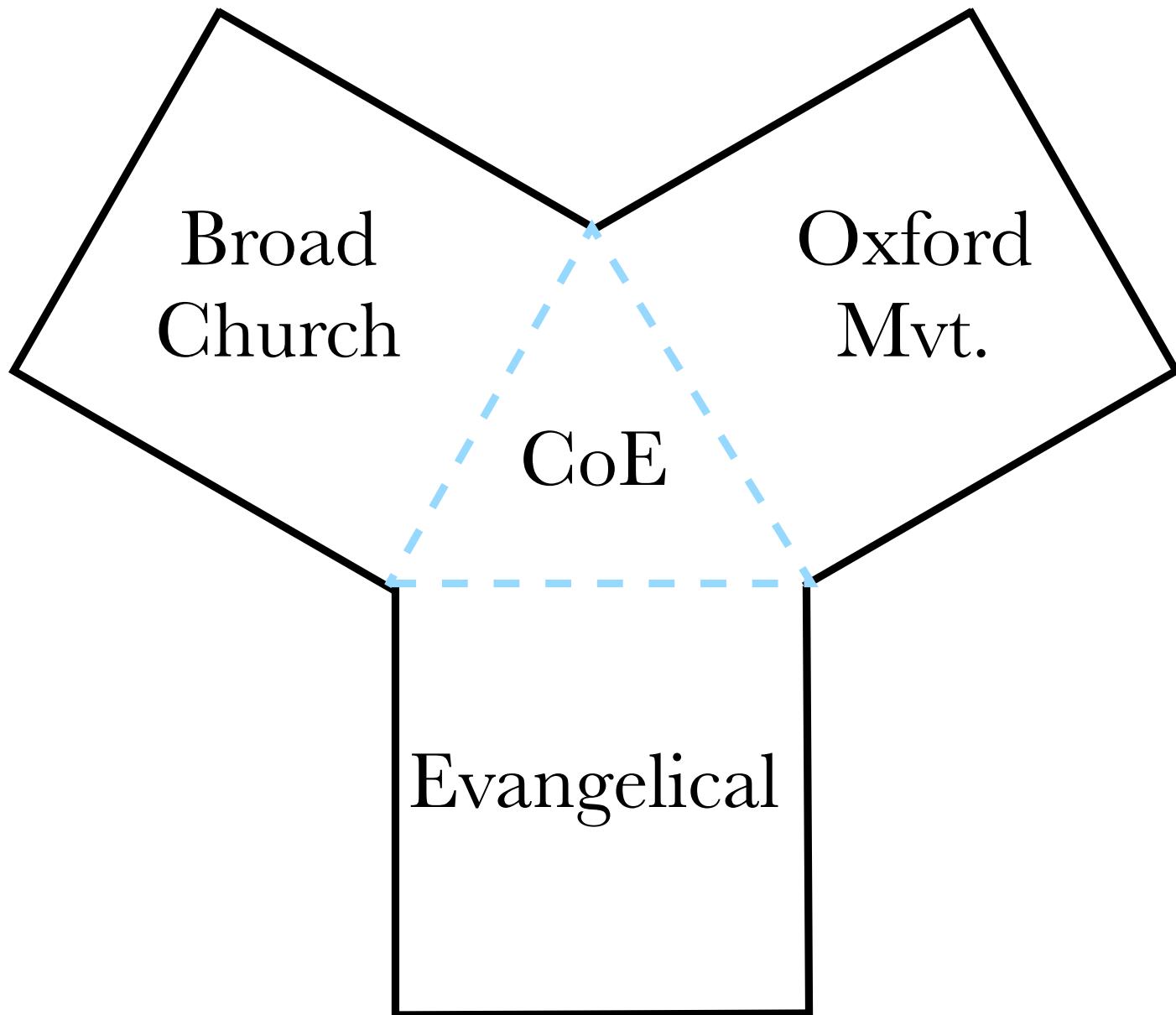
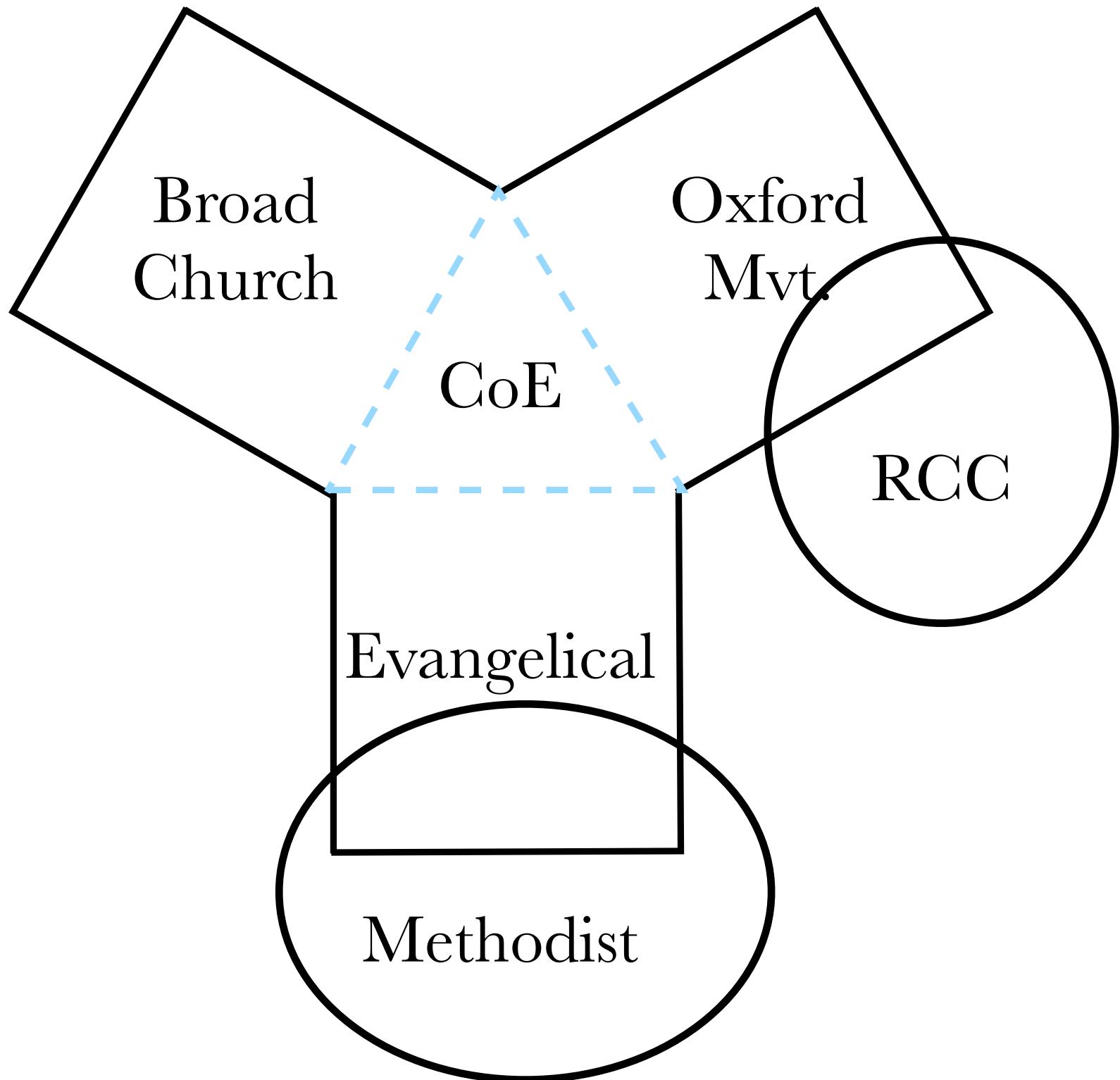
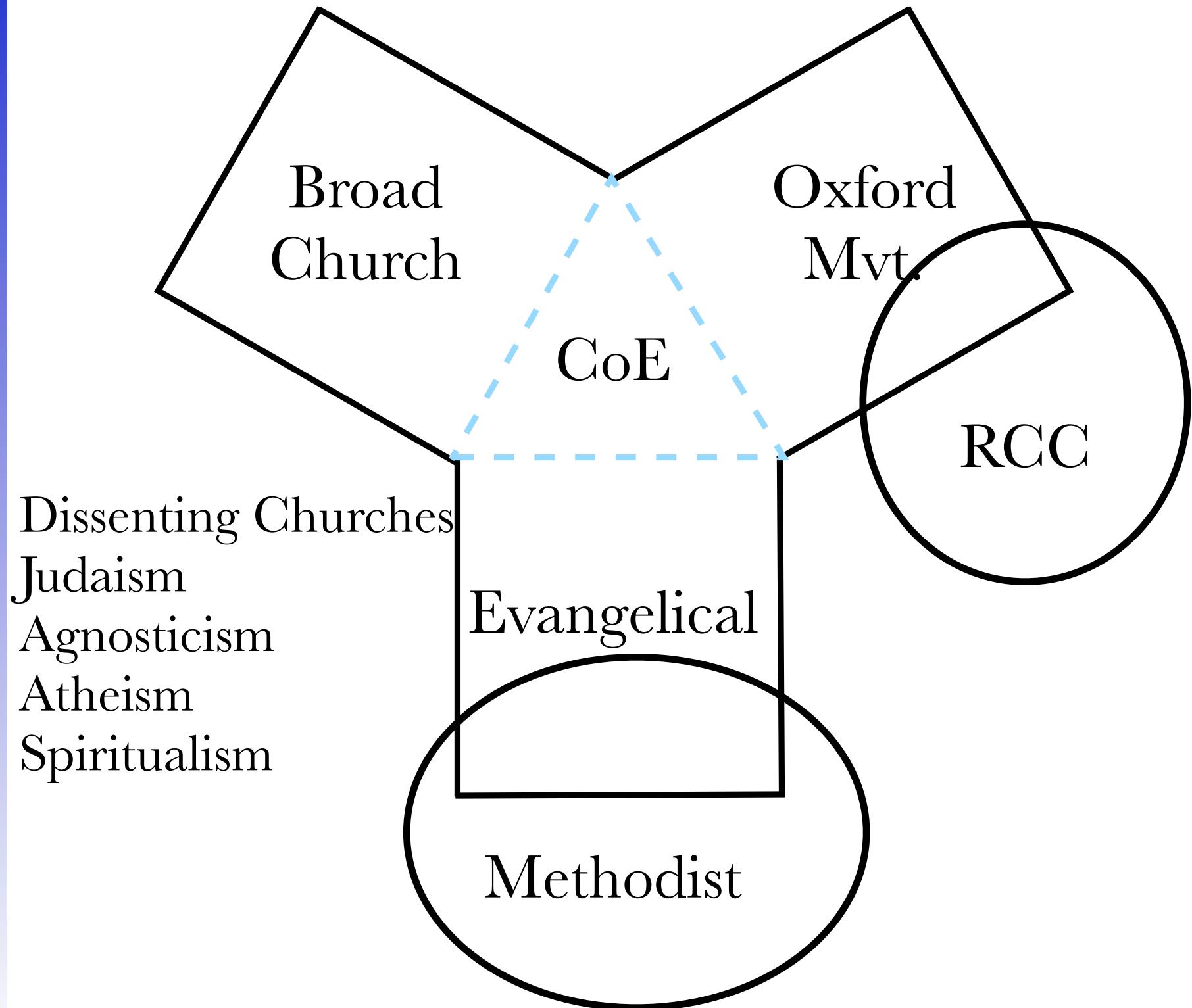


# The Religious Spectrum of Victorian England







# 18th and 19th c. Evangelicalism



William Cowper

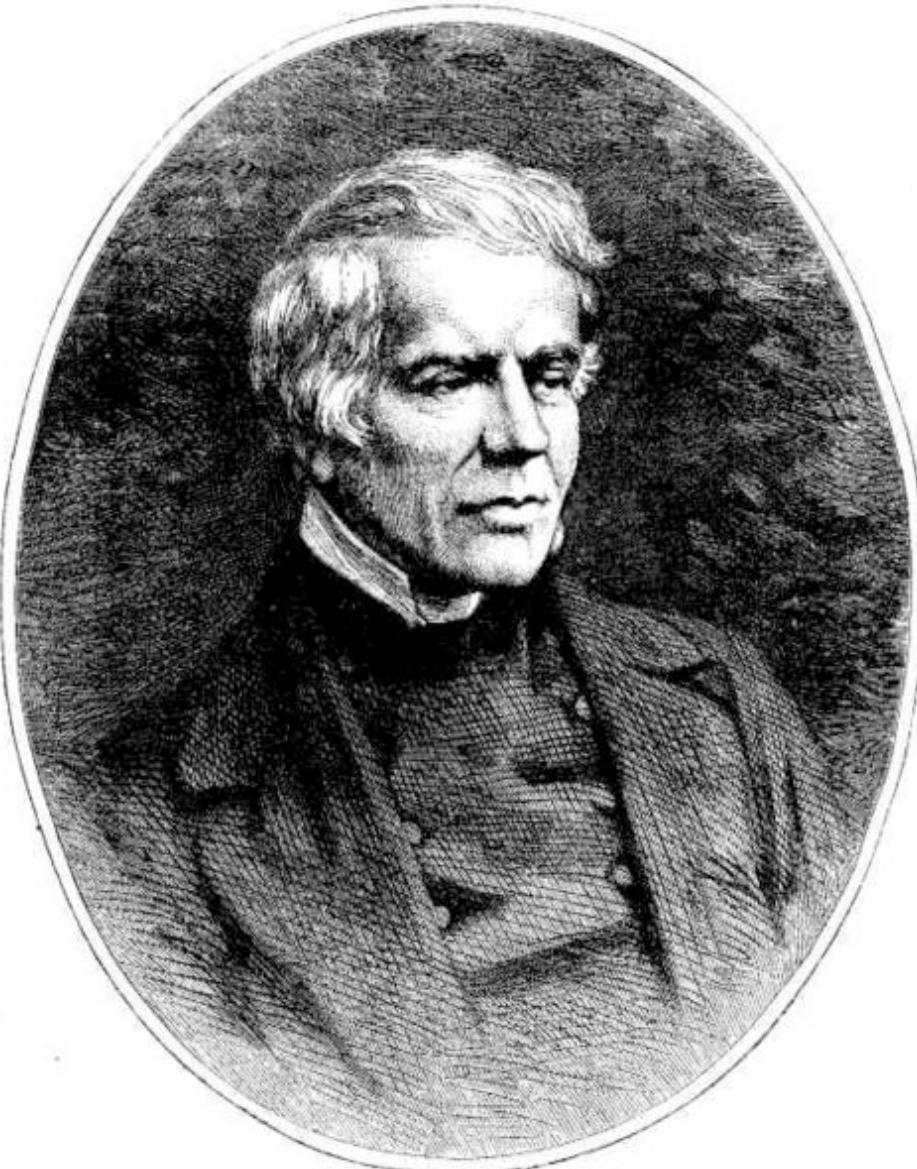
- emphasized personal relationship with God
- worked on behalf of many social causes
- emotional spiritual life
- emphasized evangelism
- believed in strict Biblical inerrancy
- distrusted science

**“E’er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.  
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;  
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.”**

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

# The Oxford Movement (Tractarians) 1833-1845

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:John\\_Keble.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:John_Keble.jpg)



John Keble



John Henry Newman

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Johnhenrynewman.gif>

# The Oxford Movement (Tractarians) 1833-1845

- published *Tracts for the Times*
- defense of CoE against RCC.
- truth of doctrines rests on apostolic tradition in CoE
- attacked “doctrinal laxity” and submission of church to state
- Newman came to admire and promote high church ritual

# Newman's *Essay on Ecclesiastical Miracles*

- Evidence for God's work is *probabalistic*.
- Puts moral law and physical law on equal footing.
- If you are a Christian, your default attitude towards miracles (both scriptural and ecclesiastical) should be favourable.
- “Ecclesiastical Miracles are probable” follows by analogy from belief in Scriptural miracles.

# Newman's *Essay on Ecclesiastical Miracles*

It shall here be assumed that this incredulity [disbelief in miracles] is a fault; and it is the result of a state of mind which has been prevalent among us for some generations, and from which we are now but slowly extricating ourselves. We have been accustomed to believe that Christianity is little more than a creed or doctrine, introduced into the world once for all, and then left to itself, after the manner of human institutions, and under the same ordinary governance with them, stored indeed with hopes and fears for the future, and containing certain general promises of aid for this life, but unattended by any special Divine Presence or any immediately supernatural gift. To minds habituated to such a view of Revealed Religion, the miracles of ecclesiastical history must needs be a shock, and almost an outrage, disturbing their feelings and unsettling their most elementary notions and thoroughly received opinions.

**They are eager to find defects in the evidence, or appearances of fraud in the witnesses, as a relief to their perplexity, and as an excuse for rejecting, as if on the score of reason, what their heart and imagination have rejected already.**

# The Broad Church

- loose affiliation of “liberal” Anglicans
- Promoted “higher criticism” readings of the Bible
- Favorably inclined to science

“[A] minister of God has no other choice but to ... bid you, the disciples of the Truth, to accept truth thankfully from every source. We will do more than this: we will not only listen to the authoritative inculcations of science, we will even learn forward to catch her whispers, her conjectures, her floating fancies...” Abbott, *Cambridge Sermons*

# Agnosticism

T.H. Huxley

So with regard to the other great Christian dogmas, the immortality of the soul, and the future state of rewards and punishments, what possible objection *a priori* can I—who am compelled perforce to believe in the immortality of what we call Matter and Force and in a very unmistakable *present* state of rewards and punishments for all our deeds—have to these doctrines. Give me a scintilla of evidence, and I am ready to jump at them. <http://aleph0.clarku.edu/huxley/letters/63.html#5may1863>

J. Ruskin

You speak of the Flimsiness of your own faith. Mine, which was never strong, is being beaten into mere gold leaf, and flutters in weak rags from the letter of its old forms; but the only letters it can hold by at all are the old Evangelical formulae. If only the Geologists would let me alone, I could do very well, but those dreadful Hammers! I hear the clink of them at the end of every cadence of the Bible verses. <http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/ruskin/>