Evangelicalism declined in public life after 1850- less evident

**Working Class religion**

Popular religion

- Problem with 1851 Religious Census
- Working classes often interacted with religious institutions in ways that suited them
- Church as centre of community

**Popular Conformity**

- Analysis of membership records has shown that they nearly always included a substantial working-class presence
- But which working class? Methodism- conservative or radical influence?

**Conclusion**

- Victorian Britain was incredibly religious society
- Division between church and chapel reflected theological, regional and to some extent class differences
- ‘Diffusionist’ model- popular religion