



# “Wesleyan vile-tality”:

Calls to Reclaim, Revive, and Renew  
Our Wesleyan Heritage

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## “Wesleyan vile-tality”:

1. **Reclaim** our Wesleyan heritage as “prophetic offenders”
2. **Revive** our connectionalism as systematic missiologists
3. **Renew** our spirits as *vile* United Methodists

Michelle Maldonado





## Susanna Wesley

“...the putting children to learn sewing before they can read perfectly is the very reason why so few women can read fit to be heard, and never to be well understood.”

-Susanna Wesley

# “Wesleyan *vile*-tality”

A willingness to look beyond today’s acceptable practices, standards, and norms and bend the rules in order to ensure that more and more persons can be included within the Kingdom and that all persons, no matter who they are, how they identify, whom they love, or how they live can know and experience the love of God, can know their own self-worth, and can then grow to love themselves and others

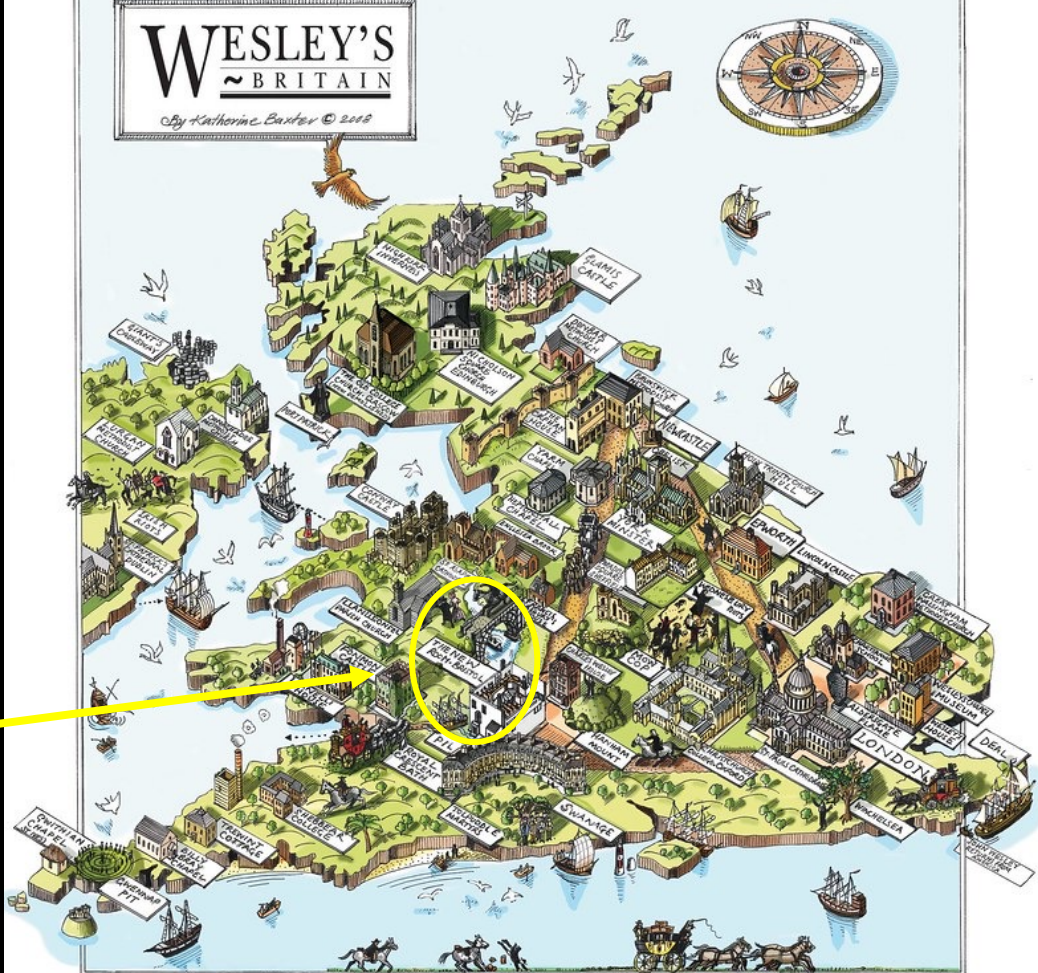
## “Wesleyan *vile*-tality”

“Wesley and his Oxford friends’ eccentricities might...be tolerated – their excessive religious observance, their closed group intensity, their self-denial and strict code of living reminiscent of some of the wayward Puritan sects of the previous century. Even their lowering themselves to undertake good works in the prisons and workhouse was not beyond the pale. But it seems that when they took up the advocacy of a man accused of sexual crimes, they crossed the boundary between the bizarre but tolerable to the reprehensible.”


-Peter Forsaith, 2020

# WESLEY'S ~ BRITAIN

By Katherine Barker © 2018



Bristol

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|--|---|--|---|--|
|  <p><b>WESLEY'S CHAPEL</b><br/>Built in 1778 on the site of the Old Foundry, John Wesley preached, lived and died here. He is buried in a tomb behind the Chapel, site of 'The Museum of Methodism' and an active congregation.</p> |  <p><b>EPWORTH RECTORY</b><br/>Samuel Wesley and John were from 1897-1935 and is buried in the Churchyard. And his sons John (1793) and Charles (1797) were born here. They escaped a devastating fire in 1709.</p> |  <p><b>ENGLESEA BROOK</b><br/>Museum of Primitive Methodism is in a Chapel opened in 1832 and associated with William Clowes and Hugh Ransome. The first Camp meetings were held on nearby 'Moor' in 1807 and some meetings lasted over 16 hours.</p> |  <p><b>THE NEW ROOM BRISTOL</b><br/>The first preaching house built by John Wesley in 1739, the oldest Methodist building in the World. Charles Wesley lived here, after his marriage he lived in nearby Charles Street.</p> |  <p><b>THE ALDERSGATE FLAME</b><br/>On Aldersgate St. London, stands a bronze memorial flame commemorating John Wesley's conversion experience on this site on May 24, 1738. He described his conversion in his journal 'I felt my heart strangely warmed.'</p> |
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“I scarcely could  
reconcile myself at  
first to this strange  
way of preaching in  
the fields...

-John Wesley, *Journal*, April 1739

...I had been all my life (till very lately) so tenacious of every point relating to decency and order that I should have thought the saving of souls almost a sin if it had not been done in a church.”

-John Wesley, *Journal*, April 1739



“At four in the afternoon, I submitted to be more vile and proclaimed in the highways the glad tidings of salvation, speaking from a little eminence in a ground adjoining to the city, to about three thousand people.”

-John Wesley, *Journal*, April 1739



Wesleyan *vile*-tality

“I am conscious how ridiculous I must appear in the eyes of many for so doing. Therefore, if some persons consider me an impudent woman, and represent me as such, I cannot blame them...Besides, I do nothing but what Mr. Wesley approves; and as to reproach thrown by some one me, what have I to do with it, but quietly go forward saying, **‘I will still be more vile, if my Lord requires it.’**”

- Mary Bosanquet



A D V I C E

T O T H E

P E O P L E

C A L L E D

M E T H O D I S T S .

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*Disce, docendus alicui quæ censet amicus.*  
H O R .

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T H E S E C O N D E D I T I O N .



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L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year M D C C X L V I .

[ Price One Penny . ]

- 1) “you are a new people;”
- 2) “do not imagine that you can avoid giving offence;”
- 3) “trust God with your all, then go on in the power of [God’s] might;”
- 4) “Keep in your path...and be true to your principles;” and
- 5) “not to talk much of what you suffer.”

## “Catholic Spirit”

“But although a difference in opinions or modes of worship may prevent an entire external union, yet need it prevent our union in affection? Though we can’t think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt we may. Herein all the children of God may unite notwithstanding these smaller differences. These remaining as they are, they may forward one another in love and in good works.”

-John Wesley, 1750







**Michelle Maldonado**