

Going Electric

We've gone fully electric! No, not Bob Dylan turning his back on his folk roots but an electric car. Months of research and agonising whether we should do it have finally led to what feels like the future. Ninety five percent of the average Brit's car journeys are less than 25 miles. With me serving in a semi-rural three Parish Benefice, three kids to get around it made sense to take the plunge.

So what has it been like? Our Renault Zoe charges at home in four hours and gives us a good 180 miles, the new model coming out gives 240 miles. It's zippy and nice to drive. If you like praying in your car you will enjoy the quiet. A government scheme means we have a charge point in the garage, which was free to install. Even installing one yourself costs a few hundred pounds. Charging is cheap. On average £500 a year. Phone apps mean finding fast charging for long journeys is easy. A forty-minute stop gets the car topped up to 80% capacity. New and free charging points are appearing all the time.

It was a little more expensive to buy and we went for a monthly battery lease to give us peace of mind and spread out the costs of the vehicle. With no road tax and petrol to buy, it doesn't seem any more expensive overall to own than a normal car. If I had to make long journeys on a more regular basis I might go for a hybrid, but for the majority of journeys the Zoe is a great choice.

The Bible has some important things to say about our relationship to the planet. In Genesis, humankind, made in the image of God is charged with being stewards of the earth. Jesus offers the promise of a restoration of all our relationships, not just between humans and God, but also with the natural world. Electric cars are not a panacea for our environmental ills but plugging in and silently swooshing into the future in our little car is a small sign of our desire to be restored and enjoy our planet as God intended.



Revd Bob Bailey

Assistant Curate, Elmet Trinity Benefice (Barwick, Scholes and Thorner), Leeds Diocese