

On the move

The priest answered them, “Go in peace. Your journey has the Lord’s approval.” *Judges 18:6*

Fed up with getting stuck in traffic jams? Tired of hunting for somewhere to park?



Frustrated that motoring costs seem to go up and up? Worried by pollution from roads and planes?

- Coach – 22 kg
- Electric car – 26 kg
- Train – 28 kg
- Diesel car – 84 kg
- Petrol car – 89 kg
- Motorbike – 92 kg
- Plane – 154 kg

Then read on. Going green when we’re on the move can be healthier, cheaper, and more enjoyable. We just need to choose the right options for the different journeys we’d like to make.

So for the climate, travelling by coach is four times better than going in a diesel or petrol car, and seven times better than flying. And although electric cars look pretty good, the environmental costs of a road-building programme to cater for an ever-growing number of cars mean that it’s still better to travel by public transport when we can. Knowing this can help us make travel choices which are good for the planet, and good for us as well.

How do I get from London to Glasgow?

Transport within the UK creates 27% of greenhouse gas emissions¹, making it the biggest contributor to climate change even before international flights and shipping are counted. And road traffic produces other kinds of air pollution too, with diesel vehicles the worst offenders.

The Department of Transport has estimated the emissions for a single passenger travelling in different ways from London to Glasgow:



Phone and internet: During lockdown we got used to staying in touch with phone calls, video calls, and meetings on apps like Zoom and Teams. Often we prefer to do things face-to-face, but using the phone or internet for routine calls and meetings saves unnecessary journeys and they're worth considering.

Local journeys: Provided we're mobile, walking and cycling are best for local trips to work, church, shops and leisure activities, or to see friends. Walking is good exercise and costs nothing. Cycling is quick and convenient, especially with the excellent cycle network we have in Chelmsford. Electric bikes make cycling easier though they're more expensive to buy.



Longer journeys: Public transport is good for longer journeys, and for local trips if we're not able to walk or cycle. Buses and coaches are easily accessible and let someone else take the strain of driving. Trains are often quicker than going by road over long distances.



Car journeys: Sometimes going by car may be the only option. We can save on running costs and reduce the

environmental impact by having an electric or hybrid car, or failing that, the most efficient petrol car that we can afford. It's always better to car-share than to travel alone.

Holidays: This is a tough one because we all like to travel to exciting and beautiful places for our holidays. But aeroplanes are a major source of greenhouse gases, and so are big cruise ships. Could we take fewer holidays abroad? After all, there are plenty of exciting and beautiful places to holiday in the UK!

¹ All statistics in this article are from the Department of Transport, Transport and Environment Statistics 2021 Annual Report

Roger McFarland

To find out more or to share your ideas on Eco Church please go to the website www.allsaintsspringfield.org.uk/church-life/eco-church or speak to one of the Eco Church Group – Roger McFarland, Nicky Morecroft, Chris McFarland, Ian Poston, Dave Gauld, Beth Cornish.

This month's eco suggestions

- Support charities** who care for the environment and/or campaign for climate action
- Boil just enough water** in a kettle – and only boil it once