

For many hundreds of years shrubs and trees have been used to create barriers of defence; be that to pen in livestock, as hedging or using a plant's climbing and defensive properties to improve an existing boundary. Certain choice plants can present formidable barriers when they have matured and provide an additional obstacle to unwanted intruders.

Below are eight choices for defensive planting you might like to try at your church.

Most good garden centres should be able to supply these plants.



Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

Hawthorn hedging is a fast-growing, deciduous native hedge plant, also known as May Flower, Quickthorn, or by its Latin name *Crataegus monogyna*.



Holly - English

Ilex aquifolium

English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is a beautiful and versatile evergreen hedge. Its dense prickly habit also makes English Holly hedging an excellent security barrier and privacy screen



Pyracantha - Red

Pyracantha coccinea

Red Pyracantha is a beautiful and colourful hedge as well as being dense and spiny to stop intruders.



Darwin's Barberry

Berberis darwinii

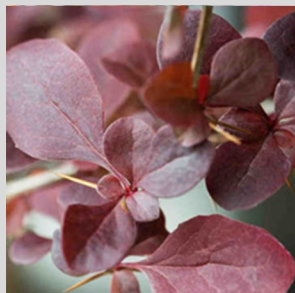
Berberis darwinii is a stunning evergreen plant. This shrub produces beautiful bunches of orange-yellow nodding flowers held on red stems in spring, along with dark green,



Berberis julianae

Wintergreen Barberry shrub

Berberis julianae is one of the evergreen *Berberis* varieties and has particularly long, strong thorns so it's ideal as an intruder proof hedge.



Purple Berberis

Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea

Boasts beautiful dark purple foliage with yellow flowers that produce deep orange berries in autumn.



Blackthorn

Prunus spinosa

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) as a prickly, deciduous hedging plant that provides seasonal interest, producing white flowers in the spring and sloes in the autumn.



Pyracantha

Pyracantha Orange Glow

Orange Pyracantha is a beautiful and colourful hedge as well as being dense and spiny to stop intruders.

Adapted from www.spow.co.uk