

Barriers or Boundaries?

It's that time of the year again, folks! Well it's actually been that time for a couple of months. What time of year? Harvest? Advent? School? Nope, it's time to cut the hedge! Ideally, it needs doing twice a year, but if I can get to it properly once and really hack it down, then I can just about get away with it.

I think I'd be much happier if I cut it more often though. These huge, green barriers do a great service in separating potential friends but to stand any chance of chatting with anyone over the hedges, you've really got to keep a check on their growth.

The size of the hedges growing at our national boundaries is being called into question at the moment. It scares me how slowly we seem to be at responding to the needs of our global neighbours. I hope that were the situation reversed, I'd be able to find a friend amongst a nation of strangers. I hope you've all found some way in which you can offer support, be it spare clothes, money or prayer.

The Church, too, can suffer just as badly from letting barriers grow. We can get quite sealed into our little space and begin to forget that the table we gather round isn't just big enough for each of us, it's global! Michelle's and my trip to India was a huge eye-opener on that front and I look forward to its forming part of a bigger discussion about world mission and mission partners.

Over a more local hedge, I've been fortunate enough to spend visiting a few organisations working with the homeless of Manchester during September. They're all well-run organisations doing great work in extremely tough situations.

All of this helps to bring a much healthier perspective by breaking down barriers in our lives and minds. I pray that at Christ Church we can begin to live in a world without hedges, where all kinds of neighbours are genuinely considered real friends.

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