Sermon:

*Thin places*? What are these? Celtic Christians, including those on Lindisfarne, saw them as places where the gap between the ordinary and the sacred almost touched.

* Sometimes it is what you see that creates a *thin place* – landscapes/seascapes – which is why people want to live beside water, or beside majestic landscapes.
* Sometimes it is association – a *thin place* might remind you of a special someone or experience (Remembrance Tree – our Tane Mahuta – God of the Forest).
* *Thin places* are places of peace and quiet – do we create enough spaces for this?
* Prayer reduces the veil between heaven and earth, creating a *thin place*.
* Sometimes a *thin place* is just a place of awe – eg Moses and the burning bush.

Introducing others to *thin places* can be an evangelistic tool.

One good question: have we got a *thin place* here?

A more important question is: how can we let God use a *thin place*, whether here or elsewhere, in us?

1. It is a place of peace. Taking stock, reassessing.
2. It is a place of acceptance. We arrive as we are. (318 SIS Jesus, take me as I am)
3. It is a place of challenge. The Sacred brings much of ordinary life into focus. Like someone asking – why do you stand for the offering? Is that revering money?
4. It is a place of change. Change with God is *always* for the better.

This is the order. There is no change possible without challenge. There is no challenge possible without acceptance of where we are. There is no acceptance of where we are without inner peace.

It does not matter where your *thin place* is. But I hope and pray that this place be counted among them. And wherever you find a *thin place* may God use it to make us more like Christ.