

# The Fish Net

Fall 2014

Dear Friends,

It really was a very special evening for both myself and my family and what I am referring to is the party held at the church on the evening of September 13th to mark my 25th anniversary with Boston and Omagh. Once again, a big thank you to everyone who made it happen!

In her remarks that evening, the clerk of session for Omagh, Beth Snoj, noted that she had looked at the session minutes from 25 years ago and came across a request that I had made; namely that the yard at the manse be fenced in for the safety of my two young daughters. I must admit that I had long forgotten that but it brought home to me how much things had changed in 25 years; now one of those young girls is a mother herself!

On the following weekend Omagh celebrated its anniversary and the guest preacher, the Rev. Peter Barrow, made reference to his growing up in the English midlands several decades ago and what life was like back then. He noted that while his family had electricity there wasn't any indoor plumbing. He made reference too as to what a challenge it was to plough a field following a team of horses. Truly, whether we are thinking of 25 years or several decades ago, the world in which we live has changed so much. It is sometimes said that when it comes to change, we can respond in one of three ways; we can fear it, resist it or embrace it. Regardless of how we may feel about change though, the important thing that we must remember is that one thing never ever changes; God and his love for us. As Jesus said at the end of Matthew's gospel, "Lo I will be with you always, to the end of time". It is this, the presence of God with us that enables us to face the changes in the world around us, in the church or even in our own personal lives without fear. Whatever may or may not be, God will be there with us and for us.

Thank you once again, not only for the gift of a memorable evening but also for the past 25 wonderful years!

God Bless, Shawn