



A goodbye message from Dr Matthews who retires at the end of June 2018.

It's been a bit of an open secret that I am retiring in June. After nearly 40 years it's time to hang up the stethoscope.

Over this time it has been a pleasure and a privilege to have looked after you and help you through illness and crisis that they have troubled you, and to see younger patients I knew as children having children themselves and then grandchildren. Over the years my own children have grown up and I remember well taking them to Saint Joseph's convent initially and then on to secondary schools. They now have their own children and we find ourselves babysitting a great deal. One of them, Katie, is following in my footsteps as a GP.

Since early days the practice has changed a great deal. When I joined in 1979 it was it was the Saltergate health centre and our practice was alongside two other practices one Dr Gray's and Dr O'Neills.

These were the days before computers. Then we moved into Avenue House, as the health centre allowed no room for expansion and you as you all know the surgery once thought huge is now having a massive extension including a lift which will be of great benefit to patients and staff.

Throughout my career I have loved working with all the other GPs, nurses and administrative staff. Almost all the original ones I started with, retired years ago. Needless to say their loyalty and the loyalty of the present staff goes without saying. General practice seems to change rapidly these days and the way practices work, even 10 years ago is vastly different from what it is now.

When I retire I will have time to indulge in enjoying classic cars. My first car was a Hillman Imp which was very unreliable but great fun. I shall also enjoy holidaying a lot more, although some patients felt I was already on the perpetual holiday. And lastly I will enjoy more time with my family. There may be a bit more exercise in there as well, instead of being tied to a desk.

As you may have noticed the practice continues to recruit doctors and nurse practitioners which more than replace me. I know I am leaving the practice in safe hands and sure it will thrive as it has done with the initial merger with St Phillips Drive and now with Hasland Medical Centre.

I wish each and every one of you my very best wishes for the future.

Dr Matthews.