31st March 2021

Dear Patients

I am writing to advise you that I shall be retiring from the practice on 30th June 2021.

As many of you will know I have been a partner since September 1980 and am thus in my 41st year of practise.

I joined the practice at a time when things were very different. We had no computers, no employed nurses and a support staff of 4 or 5 at the most! Our premises, in Stockleigh Road, were purpose built but relatively small for an expanding practice. We therefore moved to Marlborough House in 2003, four times the size of our initial premises. A devastating fire in 2013 meant we spent almost seven years in temporary portacabin accommodation at Falaise Road, finally moving to our current modern and spacious building last October.

Ours has been a training practice since 1979 and I was then the first GP trainee in the practice for an initial 6 months placement. We have continued as a training practice ever since.

How things have changed. Our small team of 3 doctors has now become a team of 8! We have a nursing team of 4, a clinical pharmacist and a management, reception, secretarial and administration support team of 17 at the last count!

Perhaps inevitably there have been both high and low points over my many years of association with the practice. I have however enjoyed the support of a loyal and hardworking team and, I believe, have built up a wealth of mutual respect with hundreds if not thousands of the patients I have been privileged to know during that long period of time.

I started in an era when the family doctor was the “norm”. Despite the inevitable changes that have been necessitated by changing demands over the years, I have retained the belief that a good working relationship and a good listening ear with whom I still like to call “my” patients has been central to the fulfilment of what has been a most satisfying and rewarding career.

I will certainly miss the challenges of doing my level best to diagnose, advise and treat young and old alike but will be comforted with the knowledge that the practice and its registered patients remain in excellent hands for the future.

With very best wishes

Dr Nick MacCarthy