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Obituary: Rev. Dr. G.D. Teague

Former general practitioner and parish priest in Hartcliffe and Withywood, Bristol (born 1924: qualified Bristol 1949 MBE TD MB ChB DPH MRCGP): died from Metastatic Sarcoma on 29 January 2016.

Derrick Teague was born on 2 August 1924 in Bedminster, Bristol, and grew up in a working class family. He was proud of his roots and always referred to himself as a 'Bedminster Boy'. He attended Luckwell School and the former South Central School before securing a place at Cotham Grammar School. He turned down the opportunity to go to Oxford University because his parents could not afford to send him away from home. Instead he read Medicine at Bristol University qualifying in 1949. He once said that the death of his younger brother in Bristol General Hospital from blood poisoning, in 1936, before antibiotics were available, had a lot to do with his interest in medicine. He recalled, as a medical student during WW2, being on duty on the roofs of various civic buildings in Bristol with the remit of dealing with incendiary bombs during the blitz. As a young man he served as a leader in the 171 Bedminster Scout Troop, and helped to run an Anglican youth group.

He initially joined Dr Pollard, who practised on Coronation Road, the 'Harley Street' of Bedminster. When the council housing estates of Hartcliffe and Withywood were built in 1952-54 he moved there to set up his own single-handed practice. When he started, many of his family and friends, some from school, registered with him. He was one of the first GPs in the South West to have an appointments system, and he had some correspondence about this with Dr Stephen Taylor, following the publication of Taylor's book *Good General Practice*. He was also a founder member of the RCGP.

In 1953, he obtained the Diploma in Public Health, and served as a part-time Medical Officer for the Bristol Department of Public Health, under Professor Robert Wofinden, Medical Officer and Professor of Public Health, who established the first health centres in the UK. Derrick also served as a part-time Medical Officer



Rev. Dr. Gaythorne Derrick Teague

for the National Dock Labour Board at Avonmouth, Cardiff and Swansea Docks. He was a National Service Medical Officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps and then served for 15 years (1951-1966) as a Medical Officer in the Territorial Army, where he was promoted to the rank of Major, and in 1966, was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

Derrick joined with Drs Stanley Iles and Peggy Bowles to form a partnership and moved into the new Hartcliffe Health Centre in 1975. He had always taught medical students and in 1980, at the age of 56, following attendance on a New Trainers' Course, he was appointed as a GP trainer. He retired from medical practice in 1989, having served for 40 years in the NHS. Whilst in practice he was always active in the local community. He was Medical Officer for both Bedminster and Hartcliffe Boxing Clubs. In 1971, he was President of the Rotary Club of Bedminster.

Derrick was always full of fun and enjoyed Amateur Dramatics, starting in the Anglican Young Peoples' Youth Group at St John's, Bedminster. It was in this group that he met his wife Beryl in 1943. He was also involved in the theatre group attached to the Anglican Church in Hartcliffe, and any patient consulting him who was in the same play as him, would be called for their appointment by their stage name! He and Beryl were accomplished dancers as they achieved gold medals in their ballroom and Latin

exams. Derrick learnt to horse-ride in his sixties and had piano lessons into his mid-eighties. He was always learning new skills, and once proficient, he would move on to something new.

He was involved with the Bristol diocese from 1951, and served on PCCs, as church warden, as the first lay chairman of the Bedminster Deanery Synod, and also on the Bristol Diocesan Synod and the Bishop of Bristol's Standing Committee. In 1974, he was ordained as Deacon and in 1975 as Priest in Bristol Cathedral. Whilst still in practice as a GP, he served as Honorary Curate at St Andrew's Church, Hartcliffe, until 1986. He then served from 1986 as Assistant Priest in the United Benefice of Blagdon, Ubley and Compton Martin in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. In his capacity as a priest, he was often asked by patients to officiate at christenings, marriages and funerals even after he had retired as a GP.

Following retirement, he remained active in the community, as leader and treasurer of Blagdon Good Companions, member and chairman of the Memories of Bedminster group, and Padre of the Bristol Division of the Dunkirk Veterans Association. He was also chairman of the Bedminster Local History Society and he was awarded a certificate by Bedminster and Windmill Hill Life Long Learning Network in 2003.

In 2004, he received the Lord Mayor of Bristol's medal for outstanding service to the community. The following year, he was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for services to the community. His nominator stated "he has remained utterly committed to the people among whom he grew up, and has served them in a wide variety of professional and voluntary capacities, throughout a long life of selfless public service".

Predeceased by his son Jonathan, he leaves Beryl his wife of 65 years, an older sister Marguerite, two daughters Lynda and Hilary, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Paul Main, Joy Main. 29 February 2016