

**CELEBRATIONS:
Dr Joseph Chandy
with his award for
40 years service**



GP to meet PM

A LONG-SERVING doctor has an appointment with the Prime Minister to add to a double-dose of celebrations.

Dr Joseph Chandy, of Horden and Peterlee's Shinwell Medical Group, has been invited to Downing Street to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, with David Cameron.

The call comes in the same month Dr Chandy celebrates 40 years at the practice and also follows the 69-year-old being awarded the Glory of India award in London last month.

Dr Chandy, who was born in Kerala, India, received the award for his outstanding contribution to his adopted country of England.

Now he is gearing up to meet Mr Cameron on Tuesday as he tops off his milestone year, which also sees the medical group celebrating 95 years of providing healthcare for east Durham residents.

Dr Chandy, who is thought to be the

longest-serving principal GP in County Durham, said: "I feel very honoured at receiving this invitation to Downing Street."

Dr Chandy, who is married to Alphonse and is a dad to Joseph and Paul Chandy and Leanne Walker, featured in the BBC 1 programme *Inside Out* about his groundbreaking findings in relation to Vitamin B12 deficiency in 2006.

The grandfather-of-five, who lives in Peterlee, arrived in England in 1966 after qualifying in Kerala.

After serving as a paediatric specialist and GP, he came to Horden in November 1970 to take up the post as principal GP, taking over from Dr Maxwell.

The patients at the Horden practice, in Fourth Street, held a celebration for Dr Chandy on Thursday, where they presented an award of their own to show their appreciation.

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