

By George – Addendum August 2015

Retirement/become less active.

For those who were not in church the first Sunday of August, I announced my plan to retire at the end of this year. Before I get into specifics, I just want to mention that retirement for clergy isn't like normal retirement – that is we can still do all those things we've been doing as deacons or priests. Remember that Fr Ray, our supply priests (Gini+ and Susan+) and Fr Bob are all retired. As a deacon the big change is I am no longer obligated to do the many functions associated with being a deacon. Think going from "active" to "less active" as I'll still be a deacon.

Like priests, deacons have a mandatory retirement at age 72, and while I'm not there yet, in a few years I would have to submit my letter anyway. Not being paid the only way to get rid of a deacon is to make us retire from our non-paying jobs. However, unlike priests, deacons don't have to leave their congregations when they retire, so yes I'll be staying at St George's.

Basically what retirement means for me is becoming less active, there won't be a big difference on Sunday's – I'll still be assisting at the 9 am service, occasionally serving as deacon at the 10:30 and periodically preaching. It is the things I do during the rest of the week that I will be cutting back on. In the diocese I've stepped down from the Episcopal Community Services board and as a member of the Committee on Lay Ministry. Over the next few months I will be working with Fr Ray, the vestry and ministry teams concerning what ministries I'll be continuing and which I'll be handing off to others.

This has not been a quick decision, but one I have prayed over this last year. The continued work on our son Robert's estate, placing his paintings with museums in LA and the Bay Area as well as working with art galleries showing and selling Robert's work has taken up my emotional and mental energy, leaving little for my diaconal ministries. With the work of the Round Table and our Eucharistic Visitors (and Fr Bob) my becoming less active will have little if any effect on St George's.

Oh, Sandy and I will be continuing our donut-hole ministry on Sunday morning's.

Deacon Bob

I too have an addendum for the August issue. On the Spiritual Gardening I failed to mention where it came from...I don't want to start another civil war with England.

### **Spiritual Gardening**

Borrowed from a 1995 issue of 'The Anglican Digest'

Attributed to Sue Hook in Hythe Parish, Kent, England