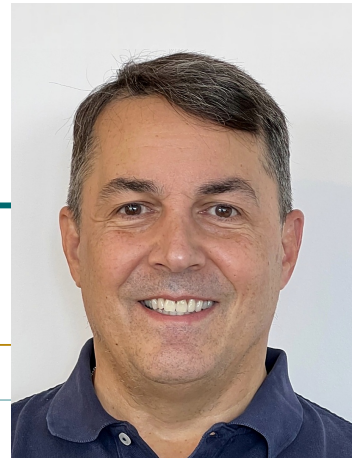


Robert Zampetti

Candidate for the House of Laity · Diocese of London
Churchwarden, St Paul's Church, Covent Garden



Five years to change the conversation. ✓
Five more to make the actions follow.
Your first or high preference vote.

WHY I'M STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

I stood five years ago because our parishes were being starved of the resources they need. I arrived knowing very little about how the national Church works. I know now, and I know what still needs doing.

WHAT THE LAST FIVE YEARS CHANGED

A decade ago, refusing to subsidise failure was the justification for using grant funding to replace worn-out inherited parishes. Few would use that language now. I played a big part.

Talk has turned to what a parish is for. We needed reminding that a priest serves a place and everyone in it, whether or not they come through the door. Calling comes before strategy, and the growth is God's to give.

The argument is no longer whether parishes matter. It is whether we still believe the parish is a form God gave us to steward, or an inheritance we may squander.

I am on the steering committee of a review demanded by Synod on how national money reaches parish ministry. My hard work behind the scenes, not in the chamber, helped bring this about. I would like London's vote behind me when Synod debates the work in July 2027.

WHERE I AM SERVING

At St Paul's I am Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer. We welcome tourists, actors who know it as their church, and neighbours with nowhere else to go. Protecting these people from harm is not only a national policy question, it is something we have to get right in our own congregation.

WHERE I COME FROM

I am British and American. I graduated from Villanova, as did Pope Leo, and a Fulbright scholarship took me to France to teach. My working life was spent advising large employers on how they treat their people, latterly as a partner at Ernst & Young. I am now retired. Baptised and confirmed a Lutheran, I spent my early adulthood among independent evangelicals. The Lutherans gave me the liturgy and the doctrine that salvation is a gift. The evangelicals opened scripture to me, and with it the duty to hand the Gospel on. So I am at home across our traditions, and wary of any argument in which one member of the body says to another, "I have no need of you".

I have lived and worked on three continents, and moving that often surfaced my need to belong. Time and again it was a parish that took in the stranger and put him to work. What my husband and I found at St Paul's, Covent Garden led us to seek citizenship in our adopted country and make London our home.

MY NATIONAL ROLES

- **Church Commissioner**, elected by the House of Laity. We invest the Church's historic endowment and set what it distributes each year.
- **Board member, Church of England Central Services**. We employ the national Church's staff and run the payroll that pays clergy stipends.
- **Trustee, the Corporation of Church House**. We own and run Church House, Westminster, where Synod meets in February.

WHAT I'LL FIGHT FOR

Everyone, no exceptions

We are citizens with the saints, members of God's household — every one of us (Eph 2:19). I am committed to equality for everyone, at every level and in every role in the Church, regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity or sexuality. Written down it is a list. In practice these are real people who, like all of us, bear God's image. Some of us have been told so but are still waiting to be shown.

I will not pretend to be neutral. I support the ordained ministry of women at every level, bishops included, and I affirm people in same-sex relationships. I will work with those who see it otherwise, because the Church is not a coalition of the like-minded and never has been.

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12:26 · NRSV



Thriving parishes, no more excuses

I stand with Save the Parish and commit to all six of its aims for the next Synod:

PARISH

- Fund the priests our parishes need
- Spend parish share on parish ministry

PRIEST

- Establish a charter of care for clergy
- Train ordinands properly, not cheaply

PEOPLE

- Adopt a charter for church volunteers
- Make closure harder than survival

WHERE DOES THE BUCK STOP?

Ask who decided something in the Church of England and you will be sent round the houses. Bishops say it too, that what lands on them was settled elsewhere. Parish priests and churchwardens feel it most. Ask anyone, and the finger points away from whoever is answering. A Church that cannot say who decided is a Church people stop trusting, and trust is the ground mission grows in.

I served on the Revision Committee that redesigned the national Church institutions,

so that Synod could scrutinise them properly rather than take note of decisions already taken by the very people it is meant to be scrutinising. With others I restored a duty the new Measure had left out, that the endowment goes first to the cure of souls in the parishes needing help most. I argued for it to go further. The Ecclesiastical Committee of Parliament has now said the same and sent the Measure back. That is our chance, and I am ready to help write the better one.

MY VISION OF OUR FUTURE

I am not standing on a platform of decline. There is a Church ahead of us I would love to see. A priest known by name to her community. Clergy who are energised, and lay people who are appreciated. A font in use, and a door open on a weekday afternoon. Congregations

confident enough to share the good news. The young learning the faith from those who have kept it.

We already hold what is needed. What we lack is the resolve to act as if we do.

Thank you for reading. Do get in touch, whatever your view. I would be honoured to have your first or high preference vote.

Robert Zampetti

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