**FHF Reception for Mrs Sally Axworthy MBE**

The Friends of the Holy Father were delighted to hold a reception for Mrs Sally Axworthy MBE in honour of her appointment as the next Ambassador to the Holy See. As only the 10th Ambassador for Britain, a post which was upgraded following Pope John Paul II’s visit to the UK in 1982, she will take over from HE Nigel Baker in August 2016.

Mrs Axworthy met former Ambassadors HE David Lane and HE Mark Pellew and members of the Friends at a reception held at Vaughan House, Westminster Cathedral. Our Chairman, John Dean congratulated her on her appointment and offered the Friends’ support in her new role. She then told us about her former roles in the Foreign Office most notably as Joint Head in the North Africa department and before that as Head of the Somalia Unit, and her delight at this next chapter in her life. She explained that historically the Minister was always a Protestant but that there have been exceptions to that rule, namely Francis Campbell in 2005. She will be joined in Rome by her husband, four children and the family dog. The Friends were warmly invited to visit her in Rome which we hope to be able to take up next year during our forthcoming pilgrimage.