

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Friends of St John the Baptist Norwich

22nd October 2023

	Name
In attendance	Bishop Peter Collins, Father Alan, Father Michael
	Jonathan Ellis Chair
	Brian Dowler Treasurer and Mrs Brigid Dowler
	Ellen Pitt Committee Member
	Judi Lincoln Secretary
	Tim Fox Committee Member
	Douglas Lewins Committee Member
	Vaughan and Vivien Thomas, Christine Taylor, Geoffrey Sword, Antonio Masala, Mary Chacksfield, Howard Trust, Anne Maddocks, Peter Dodds
	Clare Elliott (Non-Member)
Apologies	Brian Lewis, Rosemary Hill, Anne Mann, Mrs Frost, Rev Peter Marsh, Mrs Zimmerman, Anthony Owen

1. Welcome and Opening Address. Bishop Peter Opened the meeting with a prayer.
Jonathan Ellis welcomed Bishop Peter and Father Alan. Apologies for absence noted.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting approved.

3. Appointments and retirements None

4. Approval of Accounts to year ending 31st March 2021

Brian Dowler presented his report and noted the increase in subscriptions. Chrism mass collection raised £762. Account Balance at last statement 6th October 2023 is £17,109. The Accounts were approved; Brian was thanked for all his work.

5. Chairs Report.

Jonathan noted the Parish at SJB has formed a social committee which will make it easier for The Friends to put on events and to warmly encourage other Parishes to support the Cathedral. It was noted that Canon Barnes had brought a group of 40 parishioners from Felixstowe. Douglas noted Canons attending SJB to offer mass. Issue of poor acoustics in the Narthex deferred to Father Alan. The Cope was brought for display. Anne Maddox suggested The Friends come and talk to the 3 parishes in her area. Bishop Peter commented on the challenge to bind the diocese and he will want to build greater cohesion around the Cathedral and will be visiting the Parishes. He also noted that the Pope has called for a Holy Year in 2025 and the Cathedral will be a focal point for Pilgrimage and there will be a further year of Celebration in 2026.

6. AOB

Howard Trust asked if the Friends have a budget and Jonathan advised we don't commit to expenditure. Vaughan Thomas asked if SJB would consider events like those held in the Anglican Cathedral (Dippy, Helter Skelter). Bishop Peter said no, not the way of the Catholic Church.

Meeting closed.