

ECCLESIASTICAL ARCHITECTS & SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION



Patron: Prince Nicholas von Preussen

President: 2024 – 2025 Peter Preston BS(Hons) DipArch MSc RIBA AABC

25th March 2025.

EASA SPRING CONFERENCE 2025: - OXFORD

Dates: Thursday, 8th May 2025 to Saturday, 10th May 2025.

Theme: “Speak O Lord: - Examining the relationship between architecture and theology”

Hotel: The Leonardo Hotel. Godstow Road, Wolvercote. Oxford. Oxon. OX2 8AL.

Booking Deadline: **Wednesday, 16th April 2025**

Dear Colleague,

Introduction and Booking Period:

The “*dreaming spires*” of Oxford will be the backdrop to the EASA Spring Conference 2025, to which EASA Hon. President Peter Preston and I are delighted to invite you to. This will be a “*conference not to miss*” and I hope that you will respond with an immediate booking on receipt of the enclosed Preliminary Programme, Location Details and the Booking Form. Unfortunately, due to issues beyond our control the timing of the booking period is somewhat short, but I hope you will bear with us on this. Website issues have also caused us to send you a postal mailing to ensure you get these papers. Notwithstanding these issues this conference will be of great interest to all members and I have set out a few highlights below. Please ensure that you book no later than: **Wednesday, 16th April 2025**.

The Conference:

Peter Preston’s theme for the conference is “*Speak O Lord: - Examining the relationship between architecture and theology*”. During the conference we will undertake a series of visits to churches of all denominations, where we will hear from speakers about the way that a church’s theology and beliefs affects the building and layout that we see. At many venues we will also hear about the projects that created these original, altered or new buildings and their conservation. This will also enable us to look at the way the church architect or surveyor’s mind set has to alter often on an hourly, or daily basis when travelling between different denominational church projects that we are working on.

In addition to these illuminating visits we will also hear from a number of technical, philosophical and theological speakers on subjects as diverse as paint conservation, legal issues surrounding Net Zero Carbon and about the Oxford Movement, this last subject during our visit to Keble College Chapel. One visit you must not miss will be to the works of Whites of Appleton (Church Bellhangers) Ltd, which is a veritable Aladdin’s Cave of information and processes involved in the repair maintenance and hanging of bells and their frames. This will be an eye opener to any church architect or surveyor at whatever stage they are in their careers! So, if you can go to nothing else, then the talk about this subject on Thursday and the visit on Friday morning are “*must do*” parts of the conference. We are of course not forgetting the spiritual as we round off Thursday afternoon by attending Christ Church Cathedral for Choral Evensong.

The full and expected itinerary is set out in the Preliminary Programme enclosed with these papers. There may be a few minor alterations to the final form and running order and EASA has to reserve the right to make changes before the event where these become necessary, but these will be included in the Final Programme issued with your Delegate Pack.

I am afraid that changes in legislation, and the requirements of venues and the hotel have resulted in a slightly longer and more complex Booking Form! I hope you will not be phased by its exam paper nature, but we need the information from you and your commitment to various matters before we can make your booking. The days of name rank and number are long gone!

The Conference CPD and Costs:

The full three days of this conference will give you 25¹/₂ hours of CPD, across a wide range of subject matter. This is in itself remarkable and although this is reflected in the overall cost, Peter Preston and I feel that it still remains good value, particularly as this is with Oxford prices, which seem to come with a premium! However, please note that this is the only major residential conference the Association will run this year so the investment on your part will be worthwhile. As far as possible we have tried to be fair to all those booking and as usual we have an Associate Discount and discounts for Day Delegates booking for more than one day.

Early Birds:

As this conference in Oxford is in a more central location in the country, we have maintained an early start on the Thursday and given the intense nature of its content we are restricting events to the three full days with no Early Bird event for those coming early. However, we appreciate that members may wish to come earlier and see around Oxford before the conference, or stay on afterwards and so there is an opportunity to book an hotel room on both the Wednesday before the conference and the Saturday evening afterwards.

Help for Members coming by train:

Although the Leonardo Hotel is very accessible by road its links to the local railway stations are a little more tortuous! I have explained this in the papers, but if any members coming to the conference by car could offer to help by picking up members at either Oxford Railway Station or Oxford Parkway, in particular, on their way in I would be grateful.

Bookings:

Please can you make sure that you send your bookings in as soon as possible and make your payments electronically, as we are no longer taking cheque payments, except in exceptional circumstances. This is due to the extra administrative work in taking in cheques and then finding a local bank or Post Office to pay them into our account.

Please also make sure that you pay your booking fee into the account details set out on the Booking Form and not the Subscriptions account as this could lose your booking fee. It does happen I am afraid and can take up a lot of administrative time.

Data Protection issues have also made an appearance on the Booking Form. We are stuck with these so please work through any tick boxes or information required.

Delegate Packs:

As usual these will be available to collect as you register for the conference. They will contain all the up to date information you will need for each day and any specific requirements that venues have asked us to abide by.

The Leonardo Hotel:

I hope the instructions to find the hotel are clear, as it is somewhat hidden from the roads that you will approach it by. Full Delegates will also gain the benefit of the Health Club and Swimming Pool if you have time to spare!

We have also negotiated a discount on the parking fees at the hotel and so please make sure you follow the information and instructions I have set out, not only to register your car but also to pay your fees. Please note this may be slightly streamlined when you come to the hotel as I am in discussion on this with the hotel at present. However, each individual car owner will be responsible for settling these charges on departure.

Final thoughts:

This conference will provide you with a wealth of CPD and educational interest. Peter Preston and I hope you will embrace this opportunity to build on your knowledge and experience of church architecture as we welcome you to the EASA Spring Conference 2025.

With best wishes,



Andrew S. Wood. EASA Hon. Meetings Secretary.

Encl. Preliminary Programme, Location Plan and Directions Paper and Booking Form.