ECCLESIASTICAL ARCHITECTS & SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1872 **Patron:** Prince Nicholas von Preussen **President:** 2024 – 2026 Peter Preston BA(Hons) DipArch MSc RIBA AABC

15th October 2026.

Dear Colleague,

EASA AGM & AUTUMN MEETING 2026:
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2026
AT ST MELLITUS COLLEGE, ST JUDES CHURCH, 24, Collingham Road, Kensington, London. SW5 0LX

Introduction to Mailshot:

I am very pleased to announce by way of this mailing to you all, that the EASA AGM & Autumn Meeting 2026 will be held as set out above. Please note that this will be a day earlier in the week than normal on **Wednesday, 4th November 2026** as Guy Fawkes night falls on a Thursday this year. Please adjust your diaries accordingly!

Paper and Electronic Mailshots:

I am sending this mailing to you all both by post and electronically, as some members have still not fully mastered the two stage process of renewing or opening your subscriptions that allows us to send you emails under GDPR rules. In fact over one hundred of you have yet to tick the second verification email that would have been sent to you immediately after you completed the initial electronic process. Therefore, if you **only** received this letter and its accompanying documents by post, you will have to contact Michael Garber, at publications@easa.org.uk for further advice.

This is really important as by not completing this process, you are missing out on many of the member benefits and information broadcasts from EASA, which are part of your membership package.

The AGM's Venue, Date and Timing:

This year's AGM and Autumn Meeting is packed with interest and will take place as previously at St Mellitus College in St. Jude's Church in South Kensington. We are very grateful to St Mellitus College for allowing us access to the church while the college is away on a residential study week away, so we will be alone in the building apart from the maintenance staff and vergers.

Refreshments will be served during Registration between 09.30 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. The AGM will then commence at 10.00 a.m., with the usual administrative matters, not least the election of offices for which I have included a nomination form with this mailing. We are particularly looking for a new Hon. Secretary now that Graeme Renton has stepped down after his year as acting secretary following his retirement and I will say more about this later in this letter. We expect to deal with all the AGM matters smartly, so please read the papers in advance, so you are forewarned. This will then allow us plenty of time for a day full of informative speakers and the Awards Ceremony, at which Prince Nicholas, our patron, and Fritzi von Preussen will be present.

The Autumn Meeting and the Awards Ceremony:

Following the AGM, the Autumn Meeting will bring an updating session from a number of our colleagues. **Diana Evans** from Historic England will open and she will then be followed by **Paul Franklin**, who recently took over from Kevin Thomas, as Ecclesiastical's Principal Risk Management Surveyor. I should acknowledge here that Kevin Thomas was a long term supporter of EASA and we wish him well in his retirement. Then **David Knight and James Miles** will briefly bring news from the CBC before this session closes with a time for questions on all the topics raised.

Cont./Page 2.

The Autumn Meeting and the Awards Ceremony Continued:

Having updated ourselves we will then turn to more challenging matters as we look at the issues of redundant church buildings under the title ***"Pickle Jars and Monuments"!*** To work that one out you will have to listen to **Sarah Dowd's** recorded talk entitled ***"Historic Religious Buildings still need non-conformity."*** This is an amusing yet challenging talk, which will be matched by **Sarah Hollingdale** from the Anglican Heritage Salisbury Project as she looks at ***"Buildings with an uncertain future: A view from Salisbury Diocese."***

Having absorbed the above we will take a buffet lunch as the Award Nominees take up their positions in the Nave by their display boards, when Prince Nicholas and the award party will then circulate and greet those whose schemes have been short-listed. Please move quickly into the Narthex for lunch, so we can move the furniture and set out the reserved seating for our guests in preparation for the afternoon events.

After lunch we will move to the Award Presentations, which we jointly host with the National Churches Trust. This year we had a good number of entries for all the awards and we shall be presenting eleven short listed projects, all of which will be on display throughout the day. After the awards there will be a brief refreshment break and we would be grateful if you would return the crockery to the Narthex to assist the caterers' clear up.

We then launch into the second half of the Autumn Meeting with a talk on ***"The Ultra Violet Control of Micro Organisms in Historic Buildings***." Our speaker is **John Stewart** one of the joint authors of this very recently published report by Historic England, which raises some very interesting issues about the development and treatment of mould.

We then start to look forward to the two conferences next year, beginning with a talk by **Aidan Ridyard** of Burrell, Foley, Fischer and Ridyard Architects and **Prof Chris Kennedy**, Research Fellow at Birmingham University who will speak on **"Richard Twentyman, a 20th Century Architect."** This will be a taster for this year's postponed conference ***"Faith in Suburbia: The Conservation of 20th Century Churches."***, which will now be held next March, as we could not include the work of Richard Twentyman in that conference due to time constraints.

Following these two talks there will be an ***"Open Forum"*** led by Hon. President Peter Preston and Vice President Daniel Cantrell at the conclusion of which Peter Preston will hand over the EASA reins to Daniel Cantrell as our new Hon. President.

To conclude the day our new ***Hon. President, Daniel Cantrell*** will introduce the theme of his year and its annual conference, which is ***"Slingers and Kimberlins: Faith in Stone."*** This will be held in Portland and Weymouth, however you will of course have to come along to find out what that title means, but it will be fun!

To conclude this part of the meeting the final talk, ***"Stained Glass, Glazing and EPG"*** is an introduction to this coming June's conference. It will be given by **Dan Humphries** and his colleague **Emily Yates** of Dan Humphries Stained Glass of Glastonbury. Dan Humphries will provide us with an introduction to his extensive work with stained glass and how External Protective Glazing (EPG) is becoming an important option to protect early glass. Emily Yates will then describe their work on the east windows at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Mansfield, before Daniel Cantrell closes the meeting.

The above is an interesting, thought provoking and up to the minute series of talks, which should certainly gain your interest and so I do hope that you will be able to join us for the AGM & Autumn meeting on **Wednesday 4th November 2026**. Before that however, you will need to make your bookings and find St. Mellitus, so the following paragraphs address these topics.

Making Your Bookings and or apologies:

There are again two ways to make your booking this year.

1) Using the Website:

You can book your place using the EASA website. The detailed instructions for this are set out on Page 1 of the Booking Form and use Ticket Tailor to complete your booking electronically.

2) The "Traditional Way":

You can use the Booking Form enclosed with this letter, by filling it in and then scanning and sending it by email to our Administrator, making an electronic payment in the usual way directly to the EASA Bank Account details set out on Page 2 of the Booking Form.

If you are unable to attend, please send your apologies to our Administrator, Mandy Gosling by email at the following address: easa.info@btinternet.com

Cont./Page 3.

Papers for the AGM and Autumn Meeting:

The following papers are enclosed with this letter:

- Preliminary Programme.
- Booking Form.
- The Officer and Committee Member Nomination Form itself, which is adaptable by copying and using one for each post. Please ensure these forms are returned by **21st October 2026** at the latest.

Please note that:

a) All these papers will be published on the website, along with the Minutes of the AGM & Autumn Meeting 2025 and those of the Oxford Conference to enable you to download them electronically. Only the Minutes of the AGM and Autumn Meeting 2025 will be included, in reduced format, in the Delegate Packs as they are both large documents.

b) Only Full and Retired Members may vote on any formal motions put to the meeting.

c) The minutes presented above are truly works of art and Graeme Renton deserves a big round of applause for completing them, along with help from other members, after he retired as acting Hon Secretary last year. His post is up for election and we are looking at separating the administrative side of the post from the minuting side and then gathering a small team of members to help bring the minutes of each meeting together. If you have skills in either direction please contact me to find out more. It goes without saying that the more members who can help a little will relieve the very great load that has been carried by a small number of the General Committee this year and without your help EASA will become far more difficult to run as we have great plans for the future.

Delegate Packs for the AGM and Autumn Meeting:

Delegate packs for those attending will be available on the day and will include all the above papers, the 2025 minutes and the officers' reports, etc. These will also be published on the website in due course. Look under Meetings and Conferences on the Members' Section of the website for these.

Getting to St Mellitus College:

St Mellitus College is based in St Jude's Church at 24, Collingham Road, Kensington, London. SW5 0LX. It is equidistant from both Gloucester Road Underground Station (Circle, District and Piccadilly lines) and Earl's Court Underground Station (District and Piccadilly Lines only). There is no car parking on site, or locally (residents parking only), but there is an expensive NCP car park about 20 minutes' walk away. I suggest you use Google to search for others nearby if you have to use your car, but try and use public transport where possible.

Coming by tube to **Gloucester Road Underground Station** turn right as you come out of the station and immediately right again into Courtfield Road, passing The Bailey's Hotel edifice on your left. Continue along Courtfield Road, straight over the first mini roundabout you come to. Courtfield Road then continues to a second mini roundabout where you should turn right into Collingham Road and a few yards up this road on the right is the church. Entry is gained through the front porch door, not the tower door, which should be open, but if not please ring the video call point on the right of the doors to speak to those inside.

If you come to **Earl's Court Underground Station** leave the station via the Earl's Court Road exit. As you come out of the station, cross the road using the pedestrian crossing in front of you with the "Tardis" Police Box on your right. Once over the road turn right and walk along the Earl's Court Road until you reach The Blackbird Pub where you turn immediately left into Barkston Gardens, along which you walk to the end of the road. Go straight over at the crossroads here into Courtfield Gardens, continue to the next crossroads where you turn right into Collingham Road opposite the Ambassadors Hotel and you will see the church across the road. Then gain entry as above.

In Conclusion:

I do hope you will be able to join us for the AGM and Autumn Meetings at **St Mellitus College** in Kensington. Please reserve **Wednesday, 4th November 2026** in your diary and make sure that you make your booking for the AGM and Autumn Meetings **no later than Wednesday, 28th October 2026.** Peter Preston and I look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew S. Wood. EASA Past President and Hon. Meetings Secretary.

Hon. Meetings Secretary ANDREW WOOD DipArch Pg DipCon RIBA 18 Southern Terrace, Mutley, Plymouth, Devon PL4 7LS
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