



LEEZ PRIORY

Making Wedding Day Dreams Come True



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A wedding with us comes with over 25 years of experience of creating dream days.

Whether guiding you through our seven ceremony locations or coordinating the finer details such as your bespoke wedding breakfast menu, our friendly expertise is only surpassed by our magnificent Tudor mansion. Set in 40 acres of charming English countryside, the fairytale Great Tower and historical Great Hall are magical settings for an extraordinary wedding.

Exclusively yours and all just over an hour from Central London.





THE HOUSE

Built in the 16th century, Leez Priory was originally a sanctuary for monks due to its peaceful location.

This serenity still exists, as does the stunning Tudor manor house built in its place. Your guests will be surrounded by history, with the red brick frontage and castle structure making spectacular backdrops for your wedding photographs. A ceremony beneath the extraordinary Great Tower is unforgettable, or climb the spiral staircase for a unique service for up to 70 people inside.



THE HOUSE



As well as the Great Tower, there are a further four settings to say your vows. In Summer, arrange an alfresco aisle in the courtyard under the regal Carriageway, and for Winter, plan a cosy ceremony before the grand fireplace in the Great Hall.

Serve a wedding breakfast banquet beneath the vaulted wood-beam ceilings and gothic windows of the Great Hall, or converted Coach House, for up to 110 guests. Our newly refurbished bar and disco can host up to 250 guests for a fun evening reception.



THE GROUNDS

Welcome to Leez Priory, where a sweeping driveway leads you to a place of forgotten grandeur, imposing gates revealing an intimate wedding venue set around a tranquil inner courtyard. This superior Tudor manor house sits in pretty English countryside, yet situated just 15 minutes from Chelmsford and the M11, it is very easily accessible. With shimmering lakes and manicured gardens, you won't believe you have found such a place of such beauty and splendour.



THE GROUNDS



With over 40 acres of romantic landscape, Leez Priory offers an endless supply of natural beauty and architectural features for your wedding photographs. There are two beautiful lakes with friendly wildlife and fountains, flowering gardens and hidden archways and gates for picturesque backdrops.

Come rain or shine (or hopefully snow!), Leez Priory is splendid through all seasons. Enjoy a drinks reception on the lawn of the courtyard in Summer, or serve mulled wine by our glorious Christmas tree and roaring log fire in December.



FINE DINING

Our in-house culinary team will work with you to ensure your dream wedding is enhanced by a memorable dining experience. Choose from our array of contemporary cuisine, or design your own menu with your Personal Wedding Manager for a truly unique wedding breakfast. Our talented chefs use fresh local produce wherever possible to create flavoursome dishes served in a beautiful way. Look out for the tasty herbs and vegetables grown in our very own garden.



FINE DINING



Whether a formal dinner served with pairing wines or a barbeque and hog roast on a Summer's evening, we can cater for all tastes and dietary requirements. Enjoy gourmet canapés, mouthwatering desserts, delicate starters and hearty buffets all served in a friendly and efficient manner.



As with any celebration, the drinks are no doubt important which is why we take great care in selecting our house wine list and cocktail menus. As a celebration of all things British, we exclusively serve our Dadnor English Sparkling Rosé, which is proudly made by the founder himself.

SAMPLE MENUS

STARTERS

Venison Carpaccio

Served on toasted brioche chocolate sauce and pear chutney

Ham Hock Terrine with Piccalilli

Confit Ham Hocks garnished with salad leaves and served with homemade piccalilli

Salmon Fishcake

On a bed of crushed peas with homemade tartare sauce

Baked Camembert Tart (V)

Camembert, fig and confit red onion tart served with a quince Chutney

MAIN COURSE

Saddle of Lamb

With Apricot and Thyme stuffing lightly roasted and served with garlic fondant potato and rosemary jus

Slow Cider and Herb Braised Belly of Pork

Served alongside fondant potatoes, charlotte carrots and a rich cider and sage jus

Pan Fried Free-Range Breast of Chicken

With Pancetta crisps, served on colcannon potato with a wild mushroom cream sauce

Pasty of Woodland Mushroom (V)

With cavolo nero potato cakes and truffle oil dressing

DESSERTS

Lemon Tart

A rich lemon filling in crisp pastry with clotted cream caramelised lemon zest & lemon coulis

Dark Chocolate Fondant

A dreamy chocolate dessert with cherries and mascarpone cream and homemade Raspberry and Prosecco sorbet

Caramel Apple Crumble

Amazing twist on a great British classic; toffee apple topped with a rich crisp crumble topping and a homemade custard ice cream

Banoffee Cheesecake

Served with chocolate sauce and Baileys cream

VEGAN STARTERS

Avocado and Houmous Salad and Toasted Pitta Bread

Ripe avocado, blended with chickpea Tahini and garlic, served with a pine nut and rocket salad

CHILDREN'S STARTERS

Garlic dough balls served with a BBQ, mayonnaise or tomato sauce dip

VEGAN MAIN

Garlic & Saffron Stewed Courgette with Butter Beans & Mint Salsa

Lightly braised courgette with garlic and saffron, tossed with butter beans and served with a mint salsa

CHILDREN'S MAIN

Roasted Free-Range Chicken served with seasonal vegetables

VEGAN DESSERTS

Vegan Pecan Pie

Rich soya pastry, with a maple syrup filling and toasted pine nuts

CHILDREN'S DESSERT

Chocolate Fudge Sundae





ACCOMMODATION

Imagine having your own stately Manor House for the weekend. Leez Priory has 15 bedrooms which are exclusively yours for the night of your wedding.

Invite your loved ones to stay in sumptuous surroundings with homely furnishings and classic period features at every corner. The luxurious Granary bridal suite has a four-poster bed for your first night, as well as a spa bath to unwind in. Recall the previous day's excitement over a full-English breakfast which is included in everyone's stay.



ACCOMMODATION



Get ready without the rush in the quaint setting of the Fisherman's Cottage, a short walk through the scenic grounds. Arrive the night before with your bridesmaids, and enjoy girly DVDs, beauty treatments and a champagne breakfast before your big day. Alternatively, there are dressing rooms in the Main House. With windows overlooking the inner courtyard, watch your guests arrive to really build the excitement!

We offer early check-in from midday for all guests so they can get ready in comfort before the celebrations begin. Finger sandwiches and drinks can also be arranged to ensure they are fully refreshed for the day ahead.

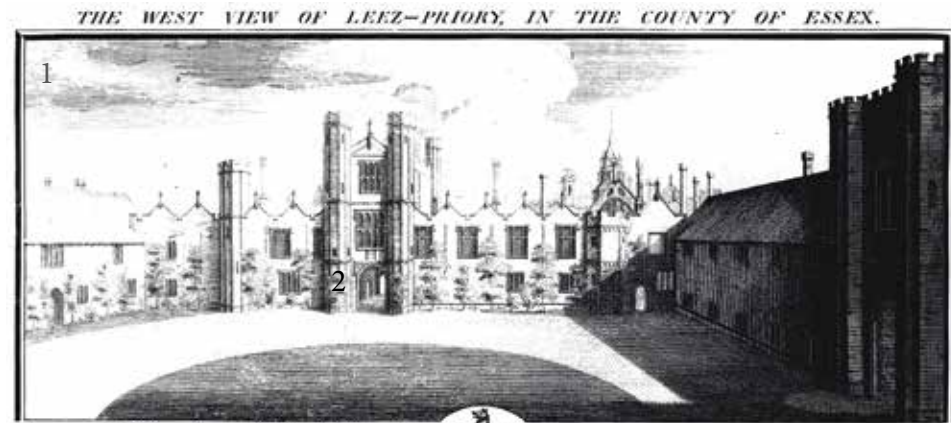
THE HISTORY OF LEEZ PRIORY

Founded around 1220 by Sir Ralph Gernon for the Augustinian priests, the original priory was dedicated to both St Mary and St John the Evangelist. For more than three hundred years the monks enjoyed the peace and quiet of this beautiful site, until the dissolution of the monasteries brought their downfall in 1536. All that remains now of this period, are the foundations of the priory and a walk in the stillness of these ruins is to be much recommended.

It was not long after the dissolution that Sir Richard Rich commenced the building of a grand mansion, parts of which make up Leez Priory as we know it today. Regarded as one of the finest Tudor mansions in Essex – the house was built using much of the material from the original priory together with deep red bricks and marble. Lord Rich was, evidently, pleased with the resulting building and referred to it as ‘heaven upon earth’.

During the period of Sir Richard Rich’s patronage, a procession of noblemen including Queen Elizabeth I on three occasions, visited and stayed, no doubt attracted by the sheer beauty of the site and the magnificence of the house. Much has changed outside its borders in the following four hundred and fifty years but Leez Priory remains an oasis of serenity and peace in a world of hustle and bustle.

- 1 Lord Rich’s House drawn in 1732
- 2 Van Dyck’s portrait of Robert Rich
- 3 The Great Tower drawn in 1833



1. Charles Sheffield Esq.
this Prospect as most Amably inscribed by
his Obliged Servants &
John & Math. Cook

This Priory was founded by St. Ralph Gernon in the Reign of King Henry III. Ralph de Balthok, Bishop of London visited this Priory in 1220 and made several Improvements to be observed by the Prior and Convent. — The present Edifice is Charles Sheffield Esq. Architect. 1732.



COUNTRY HOUSE WEDDINGS - OUR VENUES

Founded in 1988, Country House Weddings Ltd is the longest established group of wedding venues in the UK. In 1995 our flagship venue, Leez Priory, became the UK’s very first licenced wedding venue. Family owned and managed to this day, we have taken great care in selecting our four stunning country houses for their beauty and their suitability as exclusive wedding venues.

What’s more, weddings are simply all we do. Each venue is used purely to hold one wedding per day allowing our couples to enjoy a real tailor-made wedding experience. Our venues each have their own full-time team of staff and managers that are highly trained and dedicated entirely to delivering dream weddings for our couples.



CLEARWELL CASTLE
 Gloucestershire



ST AUDRIES PARK
 Somerset



GOSFIELD HALL
 Essex



LEEZ PRIORY
 Essex

THE HAPPY COUPLES...



We just wanted to say a huge thanks to you and your amazing staff. The service was outstanding! You all went way beyond your job role to ensure we both as well as all our guests had a truly wonderful day. Everything was just perfect!! Thanks again for all your time and effort over these last couple of months.

Louis & Charlotte

We just wanted to say a big thank you our Front of House Manager and your team for all your kind care and attention on the day of our wedding. We cannot praise you all highly enough for the service we received throughout. You made sure everything ran smoothly and made it all look effortless. Our guests have all said how fantastic the day was and that it was the best wedding they had ever been to which says it all!!

Michal & Susan



We just wanted to say thank you so much. All our family friends had a fantastic time. The venue, food and staff were amazing but an even bigger thank you to our Front of House Manager. She was amazing and made the day run perfectly and we couldn't have done it without her!

Richie & Amanda



It is a brilliant wedding venue, but what makes this the best place to have your wedding in the country are the staff, they are all so wonderful, everyone of them that were part of our special day were just incredible but I do have to make a special mention to the Head Barman, he made such an impression on everyone of our friends and family because he was so good and so genuine, and the one special lady who for us did such a fantastic job, it felt like she was part of our friends and family was our Front of House Manager. Thank you so much for everything!

Gari & Lin

We would just like to thank everyone at Leez Priory, especially our Front of House Manager who looked after us from morning till night and made our special day unbelievable and magical. We couldn't have wished for anything better. The venue is out of this world, everything we wished for came true, even the sun shine. You all should be very proud of your work! Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts!

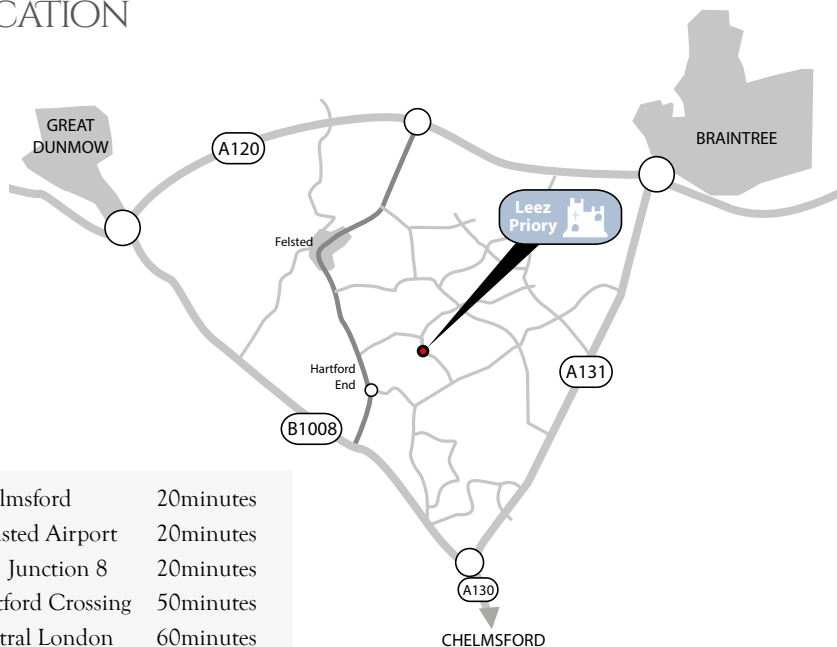
Gareth & Sharon



VENUE INFORMATION

We look forward to welcoming you to Leez Priory and hope that you choose our special venue for your perfect day. Our venues look stunning in the brochures but nothing will compare to seeing them in real life. To arrange your viewing or to find out more about our upcoming open days, please contact our team of wedding experts today...

LOCATION








Chelmsford	20minutes
Stansted Airport	20minutes
M11 Junction 8	20minutes
Dartford Crossing	50minutes
Central London	60minutes
London	120minutes

CONTACT

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SOCIAL

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Many thanks to our venue photographers: Jasmine Jade - jasminejadephotography.co.uk • Lavenham Photographic - lavenhamphotographic.co.uk
EPS Photography - eps-photography.co.uk • Expression Photography - expression-photography.co.uk • Neil Bailey - nsbailey.com

COUNTRY HOUSE WEDDINGS
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