

Farnham Castle to hold Religious Marriage Ceremonies

Submitted by: Grapevine PR

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Premier wedding reception venue, Farnham Castle, has announced today that the granting of a Bishop's licence for public worship has been agreed in principle. The licence will allow Farnham Castle to hold Church of England marriage ceremonies within one of the two chapels inside the stunning 12th Century Castle in Surrey, with an Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Marriage Licence.

Initially, wedding ceremonies, for up to 60 attendees, will be held in the historic Bishop's Chapel, previously used by the residing bishops and visiting Kings and Queens as their own personal chapel. It is hoped to also offer the original Norman Chapel in the near future. Up to 120 guests can then celebrate in the 13th Century Great Hall.

"Farnham Castle is one of the most important historic buildings in the South of England and over the years has become a sought after venue for weddings," confirms Phil Hackett, CEO of Farnham Castle. "There are a handful of Castles in the UK which hold licences to marry in a chapel within their grounds. We believe Farnham Castle will now become the only venue in southern England where couples can get married in a chapel within the Castle itself!"

Over the past few years, major renovation and refurbishment of the building and facilities at Farnham Castle has been completed. Funded in part by a £1 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project covered repairs to the fabric and appearance of the buildings as well as improvements to the dining and kitchen facilities, ensuring Farnham Castle now provides a truly unique setting for any wedding celebration.

Home of the Bishops of Winchester for over 900 years and a popular choice for meeting and celebration of many Kings and Queens of England over the centuries, the historic Castle is set in 5 acres of grounds which overlook the picturesque town of Farnham. The Castle caters for parties up to 120 people and with its excellent road and rail links (50 minutes from Waterloo) and close proximity to Heathrow and Gatwick airports; it is a particularly convenient venue for guests.

Accommodation is provided by 32 individually designed en-suite bedrooms with views over the Castle grounds offering a choice of doubles, twins and singles and a family room to ensure guests are well catered for.

Currently hire of the Castle for wedding receptions only, is on an exclusive basis and includes use of the Great Hall, Stone Hall, Minstrels' Gallery, Sir Ray Tindle Bar in addition to the use of Farnham Castle's beautiful cultivated gardens for pre-wedding breakfast drinks receptions and unforgettable photographs.

"The granting of the licence will represent the culmination of detailed negotiation with the Church of England," confirms Jeff Toms, marketing and client services director of Farnham Castle. "We are delighted that we now we can move forward to begin putting plans in place, so that in the future, we can offer couples the truly magical experience of getting married in a Castle."

For more information on Farnham Castle please call 01252 721194 or visit www.farnhamcastle.co.uk

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About Farnham Castle

Farnham Castle in Surrey provides a unique setting where family and friends can celebrate that special wedding day in style and the backdrop of the building and grounds offers opportunities for unforgettable photographs. See www.farnhamcastle.co.uk

Contact: Mel Betts
Grapevine PR
01544 318546
Melanie.betts@grapevinepr.com