

Embargoed to 17 August 2025

The Bishop of Rochester is delighted to announce that The Revd Rob Hindmarch is to be appointed the new Priest in Charge of The Benefice of Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst and the Benefice of Langton Green.

Rob served his curacy at St John's, Felbridge (Southwark Diocese) and trained for ordination at Oak Hill Theological College, London. He holds a BA Honours degree in Theology and prior to ordination worked in the local government youth justice sector. Rob's first love was music and he is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester where he studied the violin before a change of career into youth work.

Rob writes, I m really looking forward to joining you as we begin this new chapter together across both benefices and seeking God s will for the communities of Speldhurst, Groombridge, Ashurst and Langton Green. I am committed to making everyone feel welcomed and accepted in each church as we reach out to those in the local village communities.

I am passionate about engaging and discipling children, youth and families as we help parents and carers become the primary disciplers of their children; confident and equipped to help grow their children s faith in Jesus. I m excited about the opportunities to engage with the local schools, community groups, and village events to share and show the love of Jesus."

Please pray for Rob and Mary, and their children Hannah (17) and Abi (15) as they get ready to move house, for a good ending at St John's, and for Rob preparing to begin this new ministry. The Hindmarch family hope to move into The Rectory, in Speldhurst, during the October Half Term.

Archdeacon Nick Cornell is delighted to be welcoming Rob to the Tonbridge Archdeaconry as he moves to minister here. Nick also sends his love and prayers to those at St John's Church in Felbridge as they start the process of saying goodbye to Rob and his family.

It is planned that Rob will be Licenced in November. More details to follow.

Issued by the office of the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, Ven Nick Cornell
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