



Chamil Sampath Fernando, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Mayfield, DE6 2JR

Tel: 07511117822

Email: [Chamil.fernando77@gmail.com](mailto:Chamil.fernando77@gmail.com)

Proposer: Revd. Brain Leathers – Rural Dean, Uttoxeter

Seconder: Stephen William Dunn – Lay Chair Uttoxeter Deanery Synod and Synod Member  
Diocese of Lichfield Synod

**Please feel free to contact me!**

### **About Me**

- Currently living in Mayfield, where I'm serving as an Associate Minister (SSM) of Weaver Benefice. I'm originally from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and moved to UK in 2020 with my family to complete my Theological Studies at St. Hild's College, Sheffield through Diocese of Leeds and served as a Curate for 3 years in Leeds. My sense of purpose in life began when my father guided me to lay a solid foundation through the word of God. He was a faithful Anglican worshipper and a warden in one of the Church of England churches in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), and I consider myself blessed to have learnt the Anglican traditions and liturgy through him from the age of 6 years. I began to dream of serving God as a minister in the Church of England, however first encountered several challenges in my early 20's. With God's blessing I was able to join one of Sri Lanka's largest and most reputable telecommunications service providers (Dialog Axiata) as a Trainee Officer.
- Then I stepped into SSM ministry and was pleased to be selected to serve as a Brother in 2009. The leadership of the company never failed to support me through the transition to bi-vocational ministry, including gaining the necessary permissions to fulfil certain tasks such as special church masses, funeral services etc. I continued working at Dialog Axiata for over eighteen years and in 2020, I made the decision to commit myself to full-time ministry for the Kingdom of God. During my career I have engaged with many people from a wide variety of different cultures, religions and ethnicities. I have an ability to communicate well with people young and old, and endeavour to set an example to them through the love of God. I believe I have left a godly footprint with my colleagues.
- While working as an SSM minister, in 2011, I received an opportunity to serve in one of the Church of England Elderly Care Homes for the destitute in Sri Lanka. This had over fifty residents from different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. My role involved overseeing the full operations as Director of the care home alongside five other board members. Throughout my ministry in the care home it was essential to associate with many different religious leaders and health care sector professionals to fulfil my tasks, and this experience has developed my skills in working with others from diverse faith backgrounds and across societal divides. It was a great pleasure to creatively intermix different religious and cultural activities to enrich the lives and improve the wellbeing of the residents, whilst maintaining core Christian values.
- In terms of church ministry, I also began serving my home parish, Union Church which is the only church where four denominations (Anglican, Methodist, Christian Reformed and

Baptists) worship together in Sri Lanka. Creating and fostering greater ecumenism within diverse cultures and traditions has resulted in seeing many people brought to Christ. I have gained experience working together with many other religious leaders within the community whilst demonstrating a strong Christian identity and ethos, enhancing inter-faith dialogues, standing up for community issues, and tackling unjust structures for the welfare of local people. One of the key reasons for intercultural programs reaching Buddhists (Vesak, Poson, Bakthi Geetha), Muslims (Ramadan, Hadji), Hindus (Dhiwali) and others through, for example, sacred musical programs and dramas etc. has been to bring many people closer to God through faith. By demonstrating these acts of love and by working together across faith divides, many have come to know the saving love of Christ.

- I have also worked with those struggling with drug addiction in rehabilitation centres and encouraged recovering Christian addicts to use their talents to create dramas and use the arts to reveal Christ's love and salvation to other recovering addicts around them. In addition, I have experience of prison ministry and have built connections with serious offenders, providing them with hope for life. Some of those I have ministered to have gone on to full-time Christian ministry on their release. Furthermore, working with 'The World Needs the Father' movement, it has been a privilege and joy to see broken families united together and renewed hope for children's lives through empowering family renewal and training and mentoring mothers and fathers in the value of parenthood.

#### **The Next Synod:**

- Throughout my experience in cross-cultural missional engagement and exposure to God's work in people's lives, I have received His merciful gifts and strength to equip me for service, through His grace. I am passionate about offering my commitment with love, honesty, integrity and with the gift of preaching to those I am called to reach. I am also excited to share my experience to bring a revival and to build the Kingdom of God in Church of England in UK.
- Also looking forward to applying my experience in the technology sector, in the care sector and in governance and management to help General Synod to tackle the challenges currently being faced within the church and in the nation.