

RIVER OF TIME

A SONG SUITE FOR CENTENARY 2028!

2028 marks both the centenary of our General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, and the centenary of the opening of Cambridge Unitarians' church. It seems likely that 2028-9 will see a range of celebrations.

INVITATION TO CONGREGATIONS AND MEMBERS

My plan is to collaborate with potential writers and singers, between Autumn 2026 and 2028. The suite of songs I hope to complete is for East Anglian congregations and for the wider UK Unitarian movement. An outcome for us may be a local or district-wide gathering to sing newly written songs. *River of Time* would comprise simple choral pieces along with familiar hymns for audience participation. Pieces of writing sent to me, but which are difficult to set to music, could become readings. The Suite may become as long as the proverbial piece of string, so scratch choirs can learn their own choice of pieces, as they will vary in difficulty.

INVITATION TO SING

An ideal outcome is to form a single choir: UNITARIAN VOICES ANGLIA. However, no effort to gather and sing is ever a waste - and whatever you believe, everyone has a voice!

INVITATION TO WRITE – PROMPTS!

Naturally, the following hints are metaphors for the fluidity of our Unitarian history, and for changes we experience as human beings in a changing world. This is different from descriptive poetry and prose, however lovely.

A river has a source, and an end point in the sea. It can become narrow, fast and deep, or it may become broad and slow, swallowing up other streams and sources. It can be sluggish, can seem almost to dry up, then is refreshed. It can be peaceful, glinting with light - a source of wonder; or it might fall as a cataract, prompting awe. Water can run clear or become turbid after the turmoil of rain. A stream may run underground, become lost, forgotten. Heading relentlessly downstream, eventually, water meets the sea.

And so, my invitation goes something like this: Each of us is a writer in that we ponder, reflect, react, speak of our dreams and of our sorrows - whether or not we write them down. So, each of us is potentially a writer of colourful thoughts. Over the coming weeks, please consider what you might write as a basis for singing in your local community, or at our Annual Meetings. I look forward to hearing from you, on ringofvoices@gmail.com

Marianna Mitchell