RIVER OF TIME – A Song Suite for 2028!

2028 marks the centenary of our General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. It also marks the opening of our church in Cambridge. I approached our headquarters to say that I plan to compose, in collaboration, some sort of cantata or suite of choral pieces. Liz Slade, Chief Officer, wrote to welcome the idea, saying it seems likely that 2028-9 will see a range of celebrations.

GETTING CREATIVE

I am currently collaborating with potential writers - much as happened in recent years, in Uni-Sing! And also following the example of singer/composer David Kent whose Chalice-Meditations were the result of his invitation to a few of our Ministers.

River of Time would comprise chants, songs and choral pieces along with familiar hymns for audience participation. Pieces of writing sent to me, but which feel difficult to set to music, could become readings. The event may be a service in itself, or a part thereof, or may happen during a day-long event in your district. The possibility of 'scratch choirs' performing items from the Suite, means pieces will not be complex to learn.

PROMPTS FOR WRITING

Here are a few 'prompts' to get people writing: 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 turgid after the turmoil of rain. A stream may run underground, become lost, forgotten. Heading relentlessly downstream, eventually, water meets the sea.

REFLECTION AND WRITING

Of course, these are also metaphors for the fluidity of our Unitarian movement, and for changes we experience as humans: new learning, changes of belief and faith. 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 these are written down. So, each of us is potentially a writer of colourful thoughts. Over the coming weeks, please ponder what you might write as a basis for singing at our Annual Meetings (GA 2028), or in local settings. I look forward to hearing from you, on ringofvoices@gmail.com

Marianna