This letter will be necessarily brief as we have had a very unadventurous year, unlike various members of our family. At the end of June, John fractured a vertebra and spent three weeks in hospital. Since then life has been full of painkillers and other medications, doctors' appointments and so on. Thankfully he is a lot better than he was but is still working to improve his mobility. We have enjoyed visits from various family members and friends during these months. With support from family, Elizabeth was able to attend the wedding near Birmingham of her niece Kathryn (younger daughter of E's brother Robert) and Tom. All of E's siblings and nieces and their spouses/partners were there – quite an achievement!

The uniting of our church and another United Reformed church went ahead as planned and we are now worshipping together as Downing Place URC with two part-time ministers. Current ongoing discussions are focusing on our mission and how the building should be adapted. Elizabeth continues as an Elder for the moment but we have perforce been much less involved in church life than previously.

We hope you are well and send you our best wishes for Christmas and for 2019.

John and Elizabeth Whitehorn