

13th August 1910, Florence Nightingale, 90,
dies.

- Florence Nightingale was born on 12th May 1820, and named after the Italian city of her birth.
- Her wealthy parents were in Florence at the time as part of a tour of Europe.



Searching for a calling.

- In 1837, Nightingale felt that God was calling her to do some work but wasn't sure what that work should be.
- She began to develop an interest in nursing, but her parents considered it to be a profession inappropriate to a woman of her class and background, and would not allow her to train as a nurse.
- Florence Nightingale stained glass window, originally at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary Chapel and now removed to St Peter's Church, Derby and rededicated 9 October 2010.



Conventional parents.

- They expected her to make a good marriage and live a conventional upper class woman's life.
- Nightingale's parents eventually relented and in 1851, she went to Kaiserwerth in Germany for three months nursing training.



Her start in St Thomas's Hospital Harley Street.

- This enabled her to become superintendent of a hospital for gentlewomen in Harley Street, in 1853.
- The following year, the Crimean War began and soon reports in the newspapers were describing the desperate lack of proper medical facilities for wounded British soldiers at the front.
- This marker is inscribed on a building that stands on the north east side of Harley Street at the junction with Weymouth Street



Travels to Turkey.

- Sidney Herbert, the war minister, already knew Nightingale, and asked her to oversee a team of nurses in the military hospitals in Turkey.
- In 1854 she led an expedition of 38 women to take over the management of the barrack hospital at Scutari where she observed the disastrous sanitary conditions.
- An 1856 lithograph of the Selimiye barracks (Scutari barracks) used as a hospital during the Crimean War (October 1853 – February 1856).



Uncertainty of achievements.

- Reports vary as to what Nightingale achieved but it is fairly well established that she instituted the hygienic practice of washing hands.
- In response to a call from Nightingale, A Sanitary Commission was sent out by the British government to Scutari in March 1855, almost six months after Florence Nightingale had arrived.



“The lady with the lamp”

- The commission flushed out the sewers and improved ventilation.
- Death rates were sharply reduced, but Nightingale never claimed credit for helping to reduce the death rate.

- Most famous image.



Lasting contribution.

- She returned to England in 1856.
- In 1860, she established the Nightingale Training School for nurses at St Thomas' Hospital in London.



Widespread influence.

- Once the nurses were trained, they were sent to hospitals all over Britain, where they introduced the ideas they had learned, and established nursing training on the Nightingale model.



A significant contribution.

- Nightingale's theories, published in 'Notes on Nursing' (1860), were very influential and her concerns for sanitation, military health and hospital planning established practices which are still in existence today.

- Statue of Florence Nightingale in Waterloo Place, London.

