

We've all heard about the Nightingale Hospitals set up at speed to deal with large numbers of Covid-19 patients. Somewhat less well-known is the Seacole Centre set up in 35 days in the previous Headley Court in Surrey where until recently members of the military were rehabilitated.

The centre is the first of its kind in England, and will now be used as a temporary service for local patients who are recovering from Covid-19 and who no longer need care in an acute hospital, or those who have the virus and can no longer cope with their symptoms at home.

In this Black History Month, it is fitting that we should take note of Mary Seacole, a black healer from Jamaica. She was working at the same time as Florence Nightingale in the Crimea and elsewhere, but has not been recognised in the same way. There has been some criticism of her because she was not medically trained in the Western sense. In fact, she learned much of her skills from her mother who used traditional Jamaican medicines.

You can read more about her on this website:

<https://www.maryseacoletrust.org.uk/learn-about-mary/>

So, let us pray. We thank you, Lord, for your healing touch for those who are in need in body, mind or spirit. And we give you thanks, Lord, for all the variety of people from all backgrounds and from all parts of the world who have brought their skills to serve the health needs of your people. Amen.