In this collection of essays and reflections, Cicely Saunders explores a deep and enduring preoccupation: the relationship between personal biography, the spiritual life and an ethics of care.

Narrated in the first person, drawing upon a range of religious and philosophical influences and underpinned throughout with a primary motivation to care for those facing imminent death, Watch with Me explores human suffering, mortality and the search for meaning.

Written over a period of 40 years and including one previously unpublished paper, this collection will be essential reading for anyone interested in Cicely Saunders, the modern hospice movement and the development of palliative care. But it is not a book for specialists alone. Watch with Me is about how we die in the modern world. In that sense it is for all of us.

Dame Cicely Saunders celebrated her 85th birthday in the summer of 2003. She is well known as the founder of St Christopher’s Hospice, in South London, and as one who has done so much to influence the development of hospice and palliative care around the world. The recipient of many honours and prizes, a prolific author and lecturer, Dr Saunders maintains an active interest in the care of dying people and how it can be improved.