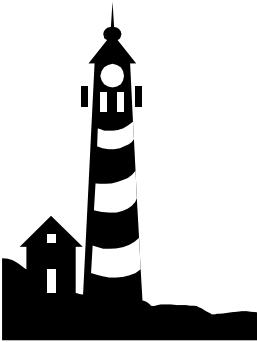


## The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh to the Channel Islands



The Channel Isles are between England and France, and two Bahá'ís went there in answer to Shoghi Effendi's call for these islands to be opened to the Faith. They both became Knights of Bahá'u'lláh. One of these Knights was Evelyn Baxter.

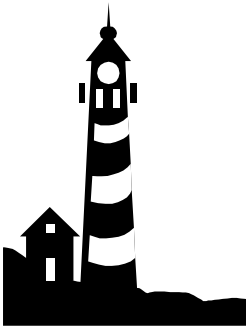
Evelyn's parents were Christian missionaries, and when Evelyn was about nine years old they went overseas to work and had to leave their daughter behind. Perhaps there were no suitable schools where they were going. Perhaps it was too hot. Perhaps there were many diseases and they were afraid she would become ill. Whatever the reason, they decided it would be best if she stayed in England to be looked after by her relatives.

When she left school, Evelyn went to Sheffield university to train to be a teacher, and one day she found a book about the Bahá'í Faith. Although she had not yet met any Bahá'ís, she knew this was the truth and became a believer. Later, she met the local community, and she served the Faith for the rest of her life. She pioneered to many towns and was a member of the National Spiritual Assembly. By 1953, she had retired from teaching because she was ill, but when she heard Shoghi Effendi's call to open the Channel Islands, she offered to go.

Evelyn Baxter had a strong character, and she is remembered as being brave, kind and loving, and a very loyal friend.



The other Knight of Bahá'u'lláh to the Channel Islands was Ziá'u'lláh Asgharzadih. He was born in Persia in 1880. When he was 15, his family moved to Russia to help run Bahá'í schools there. In 1903, he made his first pilgrimage to the Holy Land and spent several months with 'Abdu'l-Bahá.



Ziá'u'lláh sold carpets for a living, and one day he gave a lovely silk carpet to 'Abdu'l-Bahá. It was so beautiful that 'Abdu'l-Bahá put it in the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. Later, Shoghi Effendi asked Ziá'u'lláh if he would mind if the carpet was given as a precious gift to the American believers to put in their first House of Worship, which had just been built. He was very happy to agree, and that is where it is today.

Ziá'u'lláh Asgharzadih was over seventy years old when he pioneered to the Channel Islands and became a Knight of Bahá'u'lláh. Three years later he died and he is buried on one of the islands there called Jersey.