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## In Memoriam

*...in this world he must prepare himself for the life beyond. That which he needs in the world of the Kingdom must be obtained here.*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá: *Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p.226)

Please remember these souls who have recently passed on to the ‘Abhá Kingdom in your thoughts and prayers. We send our sincerest condolences to those families and friends who have been bereaved.

### Esiah Jones, Cwmannan

Si Jones declared soon after attending a public meeting at Swansea University in the mid-1970s. He was the only Bahá'í in his family although his wife Clarice became a close friend of the Faith and always warmly welcomed Bahá'ís into their home. His family greatly respected the Cause and no visitor was allowed to leave without a Bahá'í prayer being read. Si's health was damaged by his work as a Mining Engineer and his travelling in recent years was restricted by the need to carry oxygen cylinders. However, his bright spirit and sense of humour never diminished and he was always cheerful when the friends visited him. Denver Morgan writes: "A few months ago Si told us from his hospital bed details of the kind of Bahá'í funeral he would like including his favourite Welsh hymn. His request was granted and the service had a truly spiritual atmosphere. His wife and family expressed their appreciation of the prayers and readings. His grave is at Hen Carmel Cemetery – Old Carmel – one of the highest hilltops at Gwain Cae Gurwen, where the Bahá'í burial prayer spiritually moved those present and the echoes must surely have also influenced those living in the valley below."

### Parviz Parvizi, Camden

Parviz Parvizi was born in ‘Ishqábád during the persecutions of the Bahá'ís in the Soviet Union. His father was killed and his mother, Shamsi Hamadani was praised by Shoghi Effendi for the courageous way she raised her children alone. She died when Parviz was just 7 years old. Mr Parvizi worked at Iranian embassies around the Middle East before settling in the United Kingdom with his family in 1980. They spent 16 years in the Thanet community where he opened a restaurant. They moved to London in 1996. Mr Parvizi was a strong-willed man who, when he was told he had just a few months to live, managed to fight the cancer for more than a year. His last wish, which he fulfilled, was to return to Iran to die.

### Violet Thompson, Bangor

Vi Thompson, who has died aged 81, followed her son Eric into the Cause. After her declaration in the mid-1980s, she soon became one of the strong roots of the Faith in the Bangor area, at the centre of a growing community. Vi was often restrained

by her health but was an amazing example of fortitude to the friends. She eagerly supported every community plan and project. She was an integral part of the Prayer Link and many of her community felt they had benefited from her prayers. Despite her health Vi was never out of

contact with the other believers nor her beloved children and grandchildren of whom she was extremely proud. Vi suffered a stroke while on holiday with relatives in Yorkshire and never recovered. Gerry Williams writes: "The last time I saw dear Vi was on the day before she left on holiday. I went to pick up her budgie Billy to look after him while she was away. Vi was on good form then, and we both had a good laugh because she had mistakenly put a dog chew in the budgie cage, thinking it was some kind of bird treat! 'He likes to listen to Classic FM,' Vi told me, 'and he's very fond of lettuce.' One morning I woke up in a panic, as I had a dream that a small bird had just escaped from its cage and through a window, a



*Mrs Violet Thompson*

window bigger than any in my house, into a clear blue sky. On waking, I was glad to see that Billy was still there. But a few days later I heard that Vi was no longer with us... We thank the Lord for Violet Thompson's life on earth, a life of service to others, and for her safekeeping in the 'Abhá Kingdom. When I think of her I can still hear her reassuring us, as always: 'I'm alright!' Billy the budgie is alright too, Vi; I promised you I'd look after him."

### **Mr Victor Mir-Omidi, Brighton and Hove**

Victor Mir-Omidi, who has died suddenly at the age of 55, was born in Tehran to an Iranian Bahá'í father and a Russian Catholic mother. He arrived in the United Kingdom in 1963 to finish his schooling, went back to Iran and then returned to England around the time of the 1979 revolution. He was a long-time resident in Brighton where he owned a venetian blind business. He will be remembered as a calm, gracious and considerate man.

