

GLENMORISTON NEWS AND VIEWS



5p.

NO.1 JUNE 1977.

EDITORIAL.

Lord Wheatley and his fellow committee members in producing their report on the reorganisation of local government had not their critics to seek - except in one aspect: their recommendation that there should be provision for elected Community Councils.

In this world of international power politics, combines and cartels, beurocracy encroaching into all corners, community life is more and more important. Locally, as well as nationally and internationally, "the pen is mightier than the sword"; so we issue the first edition of "GLENMORISTON NEWS AND VIEWS", a news-sheet-cum-magazine. We think it will take root, burgeon and blossom; but, readers and critics, be not too harsh - it is a first attempt, which will improve, in presentation and quality. It will do so a hundred fold more so with your help, through your interest, your criticisms, your contributions (of any kind). What about some concrete help for the next issue? The present name of this publication is a bit conventional, a bit dull, a bit ordinary.....any suggestions for a better name? A prize for the name adopted, and publication of other good names, the sources of which will be credited.

We harp back to this 'community' thing, and make no apologies for so doing. Let us draw your attention to the 'COMMUNITY IN ACTION' section of this magazine.....Quite interesting.....and promising, for this is the key to the success of this magazine. A good-going

"NEW" HALL

After many years in being, the village hall had become in 1970 very much in need of general repair and a facelift, and it was decided by your committee to take advantage of the various grants available to have this work carried out.

Lengthy negotiations followed and it now appears that very soon we shall be able to offer the work and to see it commence.

It is planned to add an extension to the rear of the hall, which will incorporate a new kitchen, toilets and cloakroom, and to renew some of the furnishings and redecorate the hall interior. Hopefully, this should be completed before the commencement of the winter activities, and then the groups taking part can enjoy greater comfort and improved facilities.

All of the money for this work will not come from grants, of course, and it will be necessary to raise a proportion of it from among ourselves, by way of dances, whist drives and other functions. But of these you will have more information as time goes on.

vigorous community will find itself reflected in the magazine, which, in turn, will strive to have its image reflected in the community.

Our thanks to so many for their interest and contributions, and our best wishes to all.

We need your
Support ~ for you!

A new youth club is starting up in Fort Augustus. It is for everyone in the Fort Augustus/Invermoriston area who is aged 10 and over but not yet 14. The Club will meet on Friday evenings from 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. in the Youth Club Hall beside the old school. Leadership of the Club will be in the capable hands of Mr Jack Smith.

The new Junior Club opens on Friday 13th May, so if you are between 10 and 14 years old, come along and find out what it is all about. Remember that the success of the Club will depend on the number of its members, so if you want something interesting and exciting to do on a Friday evening, you must make the effort to come to the meetings. The proposed summer programme is:-

- Fri. 13th May - Opening Club Night.
- Fri. 20th May - Films.
- Fri. 27th May - Disco.
- Fri. 3rd June - Club Night.
- Fri. 10th June - Trip to Abbey.
- Fri. 17th June - Club Night.
- Sat. 18th June - Fort Augustus Jubilee Gathering.
- Fri. 24th June - Disco.
- Sat. 25th June - Garryguldich Adventure Centre.
- Fri. 1st July - Club Night - Sportsville preparations.
- Sat. 2nd July - Weekend camp.
- Sun. 3rd July - Weekend camp.

CLUB CLOSED.

Sat. 30th July - Sportsville 77.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND HELP US TO MAKE THIS CLUB A SUCCESS.

COUNCILS

In this matter, Glenmoriston and Fort Augustus are now one Ward No. 21. Your representative is very grateful to have been returned unopposed at the recent election, and hopes that through teamwork with many others, the area will have its fair part with the rest.

The new Community Councils are not yet fully in being. But Mr Ian Grant and Mr Pat MacDonald have been elected to serve on the Community Council for Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, on which a number of places remain to be filled by co-option.

Glenmoriston Man helps to Beat "Auld Enemy"

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING
Martin Girvan, Ceannacroc, was a member of the 20 man strong team which met a similar English team at Carlisle in March to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first International held between Scotland and England.

After a very close contest Scotland, for the first time in forty years, beat England, repeating their performance of fifty years ago. Scotland hope to retain their form for the Annual International to take place in July at Kippen, Stirling.

Welcome!

Glen Survey & Building Co.Ltd., have recently completed a new Oliver Homes house at Bhlaraidh and wish to welcome to the Glen the new residents - Mr. and Mrs. Smart from London.

FEATURES CORNER

EVERY DAY IS A "BONNY DAY" - A LOCAL'S OBSERVATIONS.

We arrived at Glenmoriston in mid-July, 1976, hoping to escape the almost tropical heat which we seemed to have been enduring for an age in Yorkshire.

The water supplies were nearing the emergency level, fire warnings were out on all the moors, farmers were looking to the skies for rain which never came.

We couldn't wait for the cool hills of the Highlands, but what did we find? Another six weeks of unusually high temperatures. Within a couple of weeks our water supply dried up, with the result that we had to carry water from the village, a chore which we had never had to do in our lives before. Quite an unexpected initiation to the country life!

However, the bright sunny days were also a great help in keeping down the well-known and universally detested occupant of the Highlands, the gravity-defying hypodermic, more commonly known as the midge. It seems that this tiny member of the insect world justifies its existence by attempting (and almost succeeding in some cases) to drive the 'Homo Sapiens' population up the wall, although we have noticed that one or two members of our species are fortunate not to be troubled by them too much.

The summer greens soon began to give way to the Autumn colours, which seemed to come early to some of the beeches and birches, having lost their green canopies due to the drought. The profusion of russets and gold seemed most noticeable on the hillside above Levishie, which is, as yet, unspoiled by the vast acreages of planted conifers.

The winter has been one of the most pleasant we as a family have yet experienced, although the frosts did obstruct our own efforts somewhat.

Whilst the frosty snows are a nuisance to the work day, the visible beauty they give to the Highland Glen is worth every moment of inconvenience.

It gives us townsfolk, or should we say, former townsfolk, great pleasure to observe the country person stopping, looking and saying both to themselves and others: "Aye, but it's a bonny day?".

And truly through all the seasons if we did but take a few moments to look around us we would find that every day is a "bonny day".

R.J.W.

YOU CAN'T SEE THE NESSIE FOR THE TREES!

How often do we hear people say: "I'll believe in Nessie when I see it"; and why do so few see her? Well, apart from the fact that she only seems to appear prior to the start of the tourist season, there may be another reason.

For the past two years while I have been travelling between Invermoriston and Fort Augustus I have tried in vain to be one of the lucky Nessie spotters. All to no avail. Of course, I am not a policeman!

In fact, during the summer months when the trees are full of leaves I sometimes wonder if there is even a loch there. Now this is a great pity, for, as everyone knows, the view from the loch shore is one of the most magnificent in Scotland. Also, the ever changing traffic to and fro on the loch can be very interesting to young and old alike.

If we could only find someone in authority to give the order to cut down all the scrub between the road

NESSIE (CTO)

and the loch, then we could all enjoy the view and perhaps see a lot more of our friend, Nessie.

I know a lot of people will say it would cause a lot of accidents to occur on the road, but surely a driver could give more attention to the road if he was not trying to peer through some chink in the green curtain that forever blocks his view. It would also take away some blind corners if a few trees were removed, as can be seen on the opposite side of the road now that the Forestry have started clear felling.

So, please could we have a clear fell on the shore side as well.



H.F.G.

Buzzards are a common sight in Glenmoriston. These resident birds build their nests of sticks, leaves, grass and wool in tree tops or on cliff ledges. About May they lay two or three eggs, slightly greenish-white, blotched with light brown.

I have reason to believe that there is a nest in the forestry block above Torgoyle Crescent. You can watch the buzzard gliding above what I think is the proximity of the nest.

The buzzard has a wing span of about five feet. When hunting it flies low in the air, pouncing on creatures like rabbits, mice, rats, injured lambs and smaller birds. Having caught its prey, it carries it away in its talons to some quiet place where it can tear it up and devour it.

Shaun Grange.

NOTES.

Welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Flavell and Robert who have come to the Gardener's Cottage, Mr. and Mrs. Aiken, Robert and Elizabeth who have come to Inchmore, and all the new staff who have come to the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel.

LOCAL LORE

A phase in the history of the Catholic Community in Glenmoriston has just come to an end, with the chapel at Torgoyle no longer being used. The building - chapel and priest's house combined - was erected in 1841 but ceased to have a resident priest in 1850. In 1854, Fr. Donald MacKenzie took up residence in what is now the Old Convent at Fort Augustus (though Fort Augustus was in another bishop's territory) and from there he travelled to Torgoyle and Stratherrick on each second and fourth Sunday respectively. At this time the Glenmoriston congregation numbered 80.

In December, 1859 a chapel and priest's house were opened in Stratherrick. Fr. MacKenzie went to live there but continued to serve Torgoyle. This arrangement lasted until the Catholic hierarchy of bishops was re-established in 1878. Fort Augustus was now with Glenmoriston in the diocese of Aberdeen, so the priest there once more took charge of Torgoyle. Since 1890 the parish priest has been a monk of the Abbey.

The Torgoyle chapel house is interesting, as it shows what a humble dwelling was like in the 1840s. It is also interesting because of its ghost, the 'cailleach Bheag' or 'little old woman'. The story runs that the priest's house-keeper opened the door one night to a passing tramp and was murdered, and she can still be heard, over a century later, coming down the stairs at night.

Some years ago, as the upper glen continued to empty and Invermoriston village to grow, the Catholics began to have Mass in the hall at Invermoriston. This will continue as before: at 9 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month.

IN THE GLEN

The Curlews call,
The roebucks bark,
The owls hoot at dark.
When the river's in full spate
Big juicy trout are on my plate.

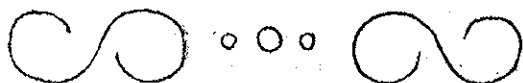
Amanda Grange.

CHURCH NEWS

The Woman's Guild met in May under the shadow of the death of the Honorary President, Mrs Grant of Glenmoriston. During her term as President the branch had taken a new lease of life as she encouraged Glenmoriston to play its full part alongside the other branches in the district.

All preparation had been made for a social visit one evening to Urray House Old Folk's Home, Muir of Ord, when illness among the residents meant it had to be put off. Mr and Mrs Fraser subsequently called with the sweets that had been prepared and were very graciously received, although not everyone had fully recovered from the bug! We hope to make new arrangements when possible. We have just finished sewing together a gay knitted blanket for Mulanje Hospital, Malawi. The Echo Meeting in Inverness on Tuesday, June 7th is our next date, when we look forward to hearing news from the various Assembly meetings in Edinburgh.

The Free Church held their communion season in Fort Augustus from Thursday, 5th May to Monday 9th May. The preacher on Thursday was the Rev. Neil Shaw, Kilmallie, whose services were much enjoyed. The Friday service was taken by the minister. On Saturday, Sabbath and Monday, the Rev. Hugh Ferrier of the Free North, Inverness, gave able and faithful messages at each of the services. Hospitality was provided in the Free Church Manse, Glenmoriston, and as the colporteur, Mr Murdo Morrison was at work in the Fort Augustus area he also was able to join in the services in the Church and the fellowship at the Manse. Mrs Fraser was assisted by her sister, Mrs Munro, who was staying in the Manse at the time.



IN MEMORIAM

Widespread sympathy is extended to Mr James Grant of Glenmoriston on the totally unexpected illness and death of Mrs Grant after exactly six years of active life in the Glen. Mrs Grant made her presence felt in the Church, in which she served as President of the Women's Guild, the W.R.I. and everything that concerned the Community. She led the way in representing the Red Cross work and particularly endeared herself to all the Senior Citizens, to whom she extended such warm hospitality at Christmas and on other occasions. She will also be remembered for her interest in Invermoriston and Dalchreichart Schools.

FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Trees are growing, buds are showing,
Birds are nesting, winter's resting,
Lambs and piglets, calves and chicks,
As summer shows.

Forget the frost, forget the snow,
Forget them all, as sunshine glows.
Eggs cracking, salmon slapping,
Egging season grows.

Think of future, not of past,
While the spring-time flowers burst.
Into sprays of blue and white,
Yellow, orange - rainbow bright.
Paul Tomlin.

At Christmas the pupils of Invermoriston School gave a performance of a Nativity Play in the Hall. They were supported by a group of ladies from the Woman's Guild, who gave a selection of carols.

Activities were restricted during the Spring term by the inclement weather; however, in spite of cold winds, snow and rain, practising for sports has gone ahead, and we look forward to at least two sports meetings this term.

Some pupils were successful in the Arts and Needlework sections of the S.W.R.I. Exhibition held at Fort Augustus on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May.

Later, this term we hope to make a trip to Cawdor Castle near Nairn.

SCHOOLS (CTD)

The Children's Committee in the month of May is usually quiet. It has been helped to be so in recent years thanks to the excellent bus outings organised through the schools by Mrs Grant and Mrs Morris and their helpers. But mindful of twenty five years of stable monarchy, and thankful that our children, unlike so many others, have had this benefit, your Committee has felt that some celebration is called for. We have been much heartened by support from all over the Glen to the Jumble Sale recently held to raise funds.

Following the Easter holidays, the roll at Dalchreichart School increased to 13, the highest number since 1968. 4 of the senior boys will proceed to Glenurquhart Senior Sec. School next session, but it is hoped that the loss of these older exports will be balanced by several new little "imports"!

During this Jubilee year the school hopes to participate in a Sports Meeting with Invermoriston School, but the details have still to be finished. We also hope to have our usual summer term bus trip with Invermoriston School.

On the afternoon of 3rd June, at 2 p.m. a sale of Cake, Candy and Bric-a-brac will be held at the school in aid of school funds, and we would be grateful to have your support in any way.

Our usual sports meeting and prize-giving will take place on 30th June at 2p.m. and we extend a cordial invitation to all parents and friends to be present.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS GROUP.

The group welcomes children between the ages of 0 and 5, and their mothers, who live in this area.

The aim is twofold; firstly, to bring together the children of this widespread community so that they can learn to play together and acquire basic skills before they attend school; secondly, so that mothers can exchange ideas on the

bringing up of children and child development.

We meet fortnightly on a Friday afternoon at Dalchreichart School (with the kind permission of Mrs Grant and the Regional Education Authority). On the Friday in between we meet informally at one another's houses. At the moment there are 15 mothers in the Group and 25 children (plus some more on the way!). We pay 50p. per term and 10p. each time we attend. This money goes towards membership subscription to the Scottish Pre-school Playgroup Association, insurance, toys, activities, etc, (we are fortunate in that we do not have to pay for our accommodation). At the meetings there are toys for play, varying from building blocks to rocking horse, activities like pre-school library services, drawing, jigsaws, moulding with dough and group games and songs.

The group has only been in existence for 15 months, so we are still very much beginners. We would welcome, therefore, any ideas or constructive criticism. Any further information can be obtained from: GLENMORISTON 51246 (Mrs Cowie), GLENMORISTON 51205 (Mrs Tilford) or DALCHREICHART 40203 (Mrs Ann Girvan).

Fort Augustus Secondary School are holding their Sports Day on the 21st June at 1.45 p.m. and hope that as last year Dalchreichart and Invermoriston Schools will join in.

Darts Club

Because of the huge interest in darts in Glenmoriston a meeting was held last Autumn in the bar.

As a result of the meeting, it was decided to form two teams - 'A' and 'B'.

Bhlaraidh was fixed as the dividing line, so that the players from there upwards would be the 'A' team and the bottom half of the Glen would form the 'B' team.

Darts Club (CTD)

Both teams enjoyed moderate success in a league comprised of teams in the Great Glen from Foyers, Whitebridge, Letterfinlay, Invergarry and 'The Lovat Arms', Fort Augustus. The 'league' was won by Foyers after some very good close games.

The season ended with an open knock-out competition which produced some exciting and surprising results. The competition ended with Reg Curson and Mike Johnson in the final.

It was a tense game, with both players notching up some good scores. Mike, a left-handed player who says he hasn't thrown a dart for many years, won the competition, 2 - 0, and was presented with a bottle of whisky by the barmaid, Mrs Margaret Gillies, who also presented Reg, runner-up, with a half-bottle.

We are looking forward to next season.

NOTES.

Good wishes to Daniel and Elma who have now moved to Cluanie Inn, where Daniel is the new manager.

Everyone is pleased to know that Hamish the Post is home from hospital and hopes he will make steady progress.

Best wishes to the District Councillor in his new term of office.

W.R.I.

The W.R.I. suffered, not surprisingly, this past session from bad weather and illness. Two meetings had to be cancelled owing to the illness of the speakers, and one has to be held in the school because of the inhospitable condition of the Hail during a frosty spell. Nevertheless, we were able to submit thirteen entries to the recent Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Fort Augustus, for which Margaret Ferguson won two gold stars, Mrs Tilford one silver and one blue, and Mrs Fraser one silver and one 'Highly Commended'. There was also a number of entries from

the children, and we congratulate Shona Robertson on her First Prize in the painting section, and Miranda Grant and James Rodger, who were commended for their entries. It is twenty years since the Exhibition was last held in Fort Augustus and we had an excellent chance to see many exquisite pieces of work.

We record with regret the death of Mrs Grant of Glenmoriston, who worked tirelessly to promote the best interests of the W.R.I. movement.

We look forward to welcoming four Dutch ladies, members of a party who are touring Inverness-shire, for two nights, in the middle of May.

TV CLUB

CHAIRMAN: MR. P. MACDONALD.

SECY/TREASURER: MRS. M. JOHNSTON.

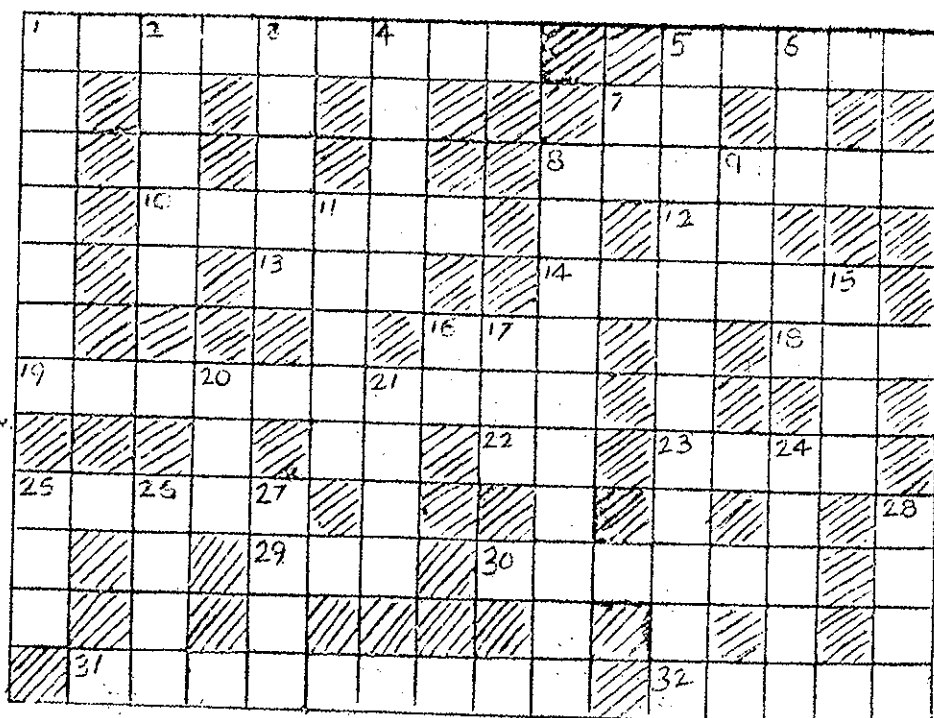
COMMITTEE: MRS. M. GILLIES.
MRS. M. SMART.
MR. K. CRAFT.
MR. A. J. GRANT.
MR. P. STODDART.

The committee have not held a meeting recently as the Club is running smoothly without too many problems. Thanks for this is due to KEN CRAFT, who is responsible for the maintenance work on the television system. This he does with unfailing loyalty in all weathers.

It has been reported that we are not likely to receive a BBC 2 signal until at least 1980, so the chances of colour television are remote. Several members of the club attended a meeting in Drumnadrochit, where Mr Russell Johnson, M.P. and a representative from the B.B.C., confirmed this.

The Club are at present looking for a kind volunteer to stand in the middle of the loch holding a transmitter to receive a signal from the Black Isle and bounce it back to the village!! - Then we could have colour television!!





CROSS-WORD

Compiled by
Dalchreichart
School.

ACROSS.

1. The knoll of the crossing (9).
5. Silver beauty (5).
7. Donald Angus only uses his initials. (2)
8. Did this dove drink at the well? (7).
10. Get your teeth into this one! (6)
12. Not out! (2).
13. A _____ or a Miss! (3).
- 14 and 16. Boswell dined here (6,3).
18. See 24 down (3).
19. The field of the dragon (10).
22. Ach concran.
23. Out (gaelic) (4).
25. Does the Government aid this clan? (5).
29. The gaelic burn has lost its tail (3).
30. Fancy a whisky-drinking bird grumbling! (6).
31. The pig's snout (9).
32. Golden bird of the glen (5).

DOWN.

1. He spanned the river (7).
2. A mountain-climbing preacher? (5).
3. This Gaelic burn is red (5).
4. His prints are not finger ones (5)
5. The town of the yellow knoll (12)
6. What a sheep his mountain is! (3).
7. River of the upper glen (2).
8. Knoll at the head of the glen (10).
9. Highland girl's name (3).
11. A duck for your bed? (5).
15. This Chisholm was one of seven (4).
17. See 24 down (3).
20. Fort (3).
21. Gaelic speaker (4).
- 24 and 17 down and 18 across -
Rock of the Birds (5,3,3).
25. Bird's mouth (gaelic) (3).
26. At the mouth of (Gael) (4).
27. Mountain loch (4).
28. Play for the sportsman? (4).

*Jubilee,
Joycing*

Congratulations to Fiona Grant, the winner of the girls' table tennis singles in Glenurquhart School, and Janet Turnbull, the runner-up, both of them ex-Dalchreichart pupils.....

Also to Donald MacDonald who has won the A.S.A. Bronze Survival Award in swimming and the STA 400 m. badge.

To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, plans are being made for a Sports Afternoon and a Gala Bonfire in the evening on June 10th in Invermoriston, and everyone is invited to Fort Augustus on June 18th, when Father Vincent is leading a programme of outdoor entertainment and display.

AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW!

"News and Views" has been launched to coincide with the Queen's Silver Jubilee arrangements for the celebration of which are now being organisedmeantime, as a matter of interest:

Extracts from minutes of Coronation Celebration Committee, 1953....

"an overall basis of 90 children (under 15)"

(Note: today we seem to have 74 under 16)

".....estimated that the dance on June 2nd would cost about £12, including band and refreshments"

".....the bonfire would be on a site near the mouth of the river, instead of on the traditional Craignaneun site.... it was seen that certain conditions had changed since the last coronation. There were far fewer horses available".

'Mr Watt (the forester at Primrose Bay) was congratulated on achieving a first-class bonfire at the cost of £0.7s.4d.

'IT' CAM FRAE RA CAPITAL

Invermoriston teems with sounds. Of wildlife in abundance. Of children at play. And of engines: limousines purr; 'bangers' bang; lorries roar; power saws snarl..... Recently, a strange new noise was heard; it had a 'diesel sound'..... could it..... could it be.....yes, it was.....A TAXI.....a ...A REAL TAXI!! And, to boot, an...AN EDINBURGH TAXI!!

The owner of this contraption: One PAT THE CABBIE, a well-known local worthy, hitherto known as PAT THE PIER.....

I say, Taximan, any confessions....??

A GLENMORISTON HYMN. (Gaelic Air).

Chorus:

1. Praise to God, praise to God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Praise to God, praise to God
Jesus is our Saviour

God is good and all things show it
Here our lives surrounding
In our hearts and minds we know it
See his love abounding

Chorus

2. Hills show forth thy strength for ever
We need never doubt Thee
See Thy life flow in the river
Who can live without Thee!

Chorus

3. Flowers and woods rise up to bless Thee
Crops the green fields cover
Birds in nests and songs confess Thee
Great creation's lover!

Chorus

4. House of God built for Thy glory
Walls and tower it raises
Word of God proclaims Thy story
Psalms and hymns Thy praises

Chorus

5. We must fight when sin and sorrow
Flout their banners o'er us;
Forward to the glad tomorrow
Jesus goes before us!

Chorus.

Praise to God, praise to God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
We believe, we believe
Jesus is our Saviour!

Published by
GLENMORISTON NEWS & VIEWS.

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