



***Welcome to the September
2024 edition of
Prospect***

*In this edition there is our usual
features with news & updates
from, LHM360, BB &
congregational news.*

*Update on Linkage with
Garthamlock, Ruchazie &
Craigend.*

Harvest Appeal

*If you have any ideas for
additional features, please get in
touch.*

September 2024

Issue 433

Scottish Charity No.
SC014212

PROSPECT

**Magazine of Stepps Parish
Church**

Contact Us:

Minister: Currently Vacant

Session Clerk: Lorraine Robertson
sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com

Church Organist / musician:

Alastair Sim 07821 667272

**Watch us on YouTube each
Sunday at 11.00 am.**

Follow us on Facebook.

www.steppsparishchurch.org

At the heart of our
community celebrating
faith and life to the full.

To submit an item for Prospect
please email Lorraine on

sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com



Stepps Parish Church

Minister: Currently Vacant

Interim Moderator: Deacon
Claire Herbert
CHerbert@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mobile 07960 546553

Session Clerk

Lorraine Robertson

Tel: 0141 779 2356
sessionclerkspc2020@gmail.com



Sunday Services Morning Worship at 11am

Address:

Stepps Parish Church.
17 Whitehill Ave. Stepps
Glasgow G33 6BL

www.steppsparishchurch.org

Communion Services

(1st Sunday – March, June,
September, December)
11.00am

Contacts:

Pastoral Locum: Mrs. Christine
Reid: By appointment

Hall Lets: Mrs. June Thomson
07909 - 042366

Safeguarding Coordinator

Mrs. Ailsa Macdonald
07952 - 095380

Please continue to follow the website for information about our Services. We look forward to welcoming you all back with us but for those who are unable to return we will continue to stream our weekly Sunday services on our Stepps Parish Church YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI7mTSz5OI-vW_qMKKjcXAw

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/steppsparishchurch>



Charity No SC012412

Pastoral Letter Deacon Claire Herbert



Autumn is almost upon us. The keen gardeners will note the leaves beginning to turn and the floral displays die back.

Some of you will be looking forward to the crisp leaves through which to trudge and the frosted glitter upon the fences.

After a summer which began with elections, then Euro's and Olympics, we have been reminded of the diversity of cultures and the gifts of different nations. There is a competitive urge.

But we see on our news screens that across the world and even here in the UK there is conflict and division. Making life feel intense.

I have been reading a book by Ruth Rice called "Slow Down, Show Up and Pray" which was published in 2021. In it Ruth writes "*this is a call to do less, to simplicity, to stillness, to a way of being, not*

to a flurry of doing." (p9)

After a summer of rest our program of clubs and activities resumes and as we do so I wonder if we might not rush to "a flurry of doing" but rather approach this new season with an atmosphere of simply "being" with one another.

As we look to the next step towards our proposed linkage with our friends at Garthamlock and Ruchazie church we are planning more opportunities to 'be with' one another. I would encourage you to make every effort to strengthen established ties or to begin 'being' together and forming new friendships as we move towards the conclusion of the formal process and look to the future together.

The next planned step is to put before the congregation the 'basis of linkage document' and hold a formal vote on the matter. There are no postal or proxy votes and only those listed on the congregational roll can vote on the appointed date. This will be set by the presbytery and notice will be given in church on 2 Sundays prior to the vote. If you would like to check if you are on the congregational roll please speak to Lorraine, session clerk or myself.

As the chill returns to the evening air, let us take this chance to draw closer to one another in friendship and companionship, as a sign of our communion with Christ who came to invite us to His table.

On 1st September we are holding communion, this is the Lords table and all are welcome to celebrate with us and to offer fellowship to one another and to those soon to be newly ordained. Come and simply 'be'.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch - via email- if there are concerns, questions or pastoral issues.

cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk

Deacon Claire Herbert. Interim Moderator.

Every Blessing

Chaplain LHM

News of the Linkage with Garthamlock, Craigend and Ruchazie.

We are working diligently towards the service of linkage and below is the:

Proposed Timeline for Linkage

Congregational Vote – Sunday 6th October

Approval by National Committee – October meeting

Approval by Presbytery – Tuesday 12th November

Service of Linkage – Thursday 14th November

Please Note: On the day of the vote, only those present will be allowed to vote – there are no postal votes or proxy votes. Each person's name will be checked off the roll before a voting paper is issued. To check your name is on the roll please speak to your elder or to Lorraine, Session Clerk.

Once the linkage is complete the two congregations will share a minister and work more closely on mission activities across the parish while retaining their individual congregational status. The most noticeable change will be to the worship times, this is to allow for the minister of the linked charge to take both services and will come into effect on the date the two congregations are formally linked – which will be in advance of any vacancy process.

If you have any questions or comments on the proposed linkage, contact Claire, Interim Moderator, cherbert@churchofscotland.org.uk

Steps Worship Planner 2024 (Sept - October)

1 st September	New Elders/ Communion	Claire Herbert / Stewart McMillan	Scott Baker
8 th September	Magnitude Worship	PULPIT COVER	June Thomsc
15 th September	Disability Awareness Sunday	Claire Herbert	Liz Ashmole
22 nd September	Ordinary time	Joint Service TBD	Flora Shields
29 th September	Harvest	Sunday Club	Marvyn MacI
6 th October	Congregational Vote	Claire Herbert	Ailsa Macdonald
13 th October	School Holidays	Claire Herbert	Graeme Izatt
20 th October	School Holidays	Joint Service TBD	Jim Hope
27 th October	BB's Founders Day	Boys Brigade	Olivia McWilliam

Session Clerk Letter

V*eni, vidi, vici" (I came; I saw; I conquered")* and survived the blistering hot temperatures of our recent trip to Rome. I have slowly re-acclimatised to our cooler and wetter climes but as the saying goes all good things must come to an end and here, I am writing this month's letter.



There is a definite autumnal change in the weather and disappointingly the summer seems to be well and truly over as the evenings draw in and the rain lashes outside. We are at the start of a new session and it is set to be a busy few months ahead.

September see's us firstly celebrate Holy Communion and we look forward to ordaining one of our board members into the eldership later in the month. This is an important stage in the life of those wishing to take the next stage in serving our congregation. We then quickly turn our attention to more pressing matters as we look at finalising the 'basis of our linkage'. A meeting with our friends at Garthamlock will hopefully allow us to finalise the last details that will shape our adjustment. You will note from Claire's letter that a date for the service of linkage has already been pencilled into the diary and so it's full steam ahead with our discussion and preparations. This date will mark the end of a long journey for both congregations as we look to go forward establishing closer relationships with one another. One way of doing that will be the sharing of worship services. This is an exciting opportunity and will hopefully see us learn from each other and grow in faith together.

Change can be hard but in all aspects of life things continually evolve and so it will be for our Church but God calls his people to live in unity with one another. Like the Romans who captured many lands this too we will conquer and overcome the challenges that the Presbytery Mission Plan has asked us to undergo. We just have to be willing to embrace the change and spur each other on.

Sincerely yours



Image courtesy of slideshare.net

September Welcome Duty



	Welcome at Door	Welcome	Beadle
1st September	F. Shields	C. Skinner	L. Ashmole
8th	E. Watson	J. Thomson	S. Baker
15th	H. Baker	S. Gowans	J. Burns
22nd	J. Hope	M. Ingles	J. Thomson
29th	A. Macdonald	F. McGovern	L. Ashmole
October 6th	R. McGovern	F. Shields	S. Baker

If you are unable to do your weekly rota. Please ensure you arrange someone to cover

June Thomson

Tea Rota



1st September	E. Corbett	S. Gowans
8th	L. Robertson.	C. Skinner
15th	H. Baker	E. Watson
22nd	E. Corbett	C. Skinner
29th	L. Robertson	S. Gowans
October 6th	H. Baker	E. Watson

First person named on tea rota please bring milk.

Additional volunteers still urgently required for tea duty rota.
If you are available at least one Sunday in the month and are
able to assist please contact

June Thomson.

190th GLASGOW COMPANY, THE BOYS' BRIGADE



We are kicking off Session 2024-2025 on Monday 26th August with an enrolment night and information session for parents, following which we will be back to weekly meetings and a variety of special activities and events planned between now and Christmas.

CAN YOU HELP?

Due to our growing numbers, we are in great need of adult help on a Monday night. We expect to expand our numbers even further this year and will really need help at that point. If anyone would be interested in helping out, either weekly or just occasionally, it would be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch with me if you would like to know more.

Anchor Boys for Boys in P1-P3, and Junior Section for Boys in P4-P6 meet on Mondays from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Company Section meets on Mondays from 7.00pm to 9.00pm for Boys in Primary 7 and above. New members are always welcome.

INFORMATION NIGHT FOR PARENTS WILL BE MONDAY 26TH AUGUST AT 7.00PM; IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN BRINGING THEIR BOYS TO THE BB, OR IN BECOMING A LEADER, PLEASE INVITE THEM ALONG!

Colin Goodall

colingoodall91@hotmail.com

Tel. 07827032807

Holy Communion Sunday 1st September



We are grateful again to Rev. Stewart Macmillan for allowing us to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion and sharing the fellowship with each other on Sunday the 1st of September.

“The bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

(John 6:33)



Deaths: Mr. Alan McEntagart (Friend SPC) 20th July 2024

Our love and prayers go to Sheila and Alan’s extended family on their loss.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted”

(Matthew 5: 4 NIV)



*Chestnut
Café*

Chestnut Cafe are having their usual Summer break in August. We will return again on 5th September. Line dancing will begin on 12th September. We look forward to seeing all our cafe friends.

On the last Thursday of July, we had a charity morning. We raised £380 for hygiene kits for the women and children in Gaza. A very big thank you to everyone who donated to this cause.

Chestnut Cafe staff.

Sunday club/Bible class

Sunday club and Bible class has started again. All children aged 3 to Primary 6 are invited to come and join us on a Sunday morning for stories, games and crafts.

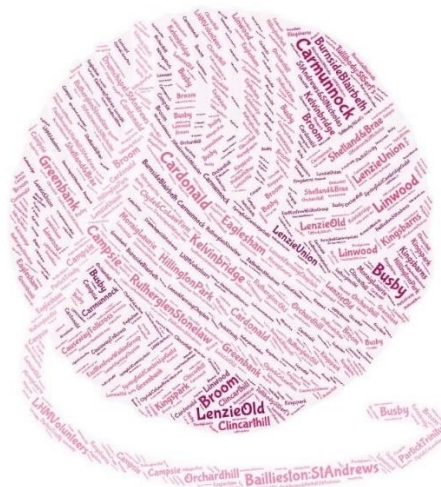
Bible class is for children from Primary 7 upwards for chat , discussions and crafts. Come along. We meet in the Church hall at 10.50 am and go into Church for the first part of the service. Then we go into the Church hall for activities.

Anne, Esther and Linda will make you very welcome.



LHM 360 have a project in the planning for 2025.....more news on that to follow....

for now, we would be grateful to any knitters who have spare BALLS OF WOOL which they can DONATE to LHM. We are now 1/2 way to our target to launch our new project. If you are able to help us out with full balls of (DK) wool keep them coming - we would really appreciate your help. All donations gratefully received whether big or small - get in touch with Chaplain, Claire or drop off during opening hours.





**In North Lanarkshire and need
help with digital, computers,
phones or the internet?**

Call the free Digital Support Helpline:

0800 0 590 690



Free digital support helpline provided by People Know How

Our Digital support helpline provides digital support to anyone in Scotland. It is free to call and is open from Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

- Anyone can call this freephone number and receive support and advice on topics including:
- Using devices like smartphones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers
- Connecting to the internet
- Navigating the web and social media
- Completing everyday tasks online
- Connecting with the community, family and friends
- Managing finances, paying bills and saving money online
- Reducing costs (energy, data plans, shopping, etc.)
- Finding opportunities for education and employment
- Feeling less isolated and having someone to talk to

The helpline is run by charity [People Know How](#), in partnership with the Scottish Government and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). It forms part of the charity's [Reconnect](#) service, which aims to improve digital inclusion across Scotland.

Part of the wider Connecting Scotland scheme set up during the pandemic, the helpline was set up to support those who received devices as part of that programme. It has since been expanded to help anyone in Scotland who needs digital support, regardless of whether they interacted with the original scheme.

“Thank goodness for Connecting Scotland... We felt we were living in the 19th century; now we've joined the 21st century, and we're enjoying every moment of it!”

– Greta & Heidi, helpline callers

The charity has supported thousands of people through the helpline.

Sisters [Greta and Heidi](#) received iPads that made their life in a rural part of Scotland much easier, with continual support from the helpline that allowed them to do things like order food and essentials to their home instead of making the 60-mile round trip to the nearest shop.

[David](#) was able to solve connectivity issues after recently moving to Scotland, allowing him to apply for local college courses and build his skills as he supports his family.

[Mary](#) still calls in regularly for advice after the team supported her to regain access to her iPad, which is vital in her life to access medicine and food and to communicate with friends and family.

[Rachel](#) eased her worries online and improved her knowledge of online safety, learning about spotting spam emails and identifying trustworthy websites.

The helpline is available to anyone who needs it, whether you're an individual in need of advice, or a support worker or community organisation looking for a helpful resource to refer those you support to. Call the helpline today for free digital support and advice.

0800 0 590 690

Find out more at: <https://peopleknowhow.org/reconnect/#connecting-scotland>

Key contact:

Claudia Baldacchino

Communications & Digital Manager

claudia.baldacchino@peopleknowhow.org

07442 878 653

Do you need:

Support to use
a computer,
tablet or phone?



Advice about
staying safe
online?



Help to
complete
tasks online?



Knowledge
about managing
finances online?



Call the free Digital Support Helpline at
0800 0 590 690

The helpline is free to call from anywhere in Scotland and is open
Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm.

We can help with using devices, connecting to the internet, navigating the
web, using social media, connecting with friends and family, staying safe
online, managing finances online and more.

In Partnership with North Lanarkshire Community Board



Linkage with Garthamlock, Ruchazie and Craigend Parish Church

Congregational Vote Sunday 6th October

A congregational vote is to be held on Sunday the 6th of October on our proposed linkage with Garthamlock, Ruchazie & Craigend Parish Church of Scotland.

Only those whose names that are on the roll and are present on the day in the congregation will be allowed to vote.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any postal votes and there is no option to vote by proxy. If you are unsure if your details are held on our congregational roll and would like to be able to participate in the vote then please speak to myself and I will confirm whether or not your details are held and if not I will ensure that your details are included allowing you to receive a voting paper.

More information on what you will be voting for will be intimated in the coming weeks once the 'Basis of Linkage' document has been formally decided by both Kirk Sessions who will meet later this month to finalise some details.

This is an important stage in the life of our church and your presence is encouraged to see us achieve this next exciting stage for our congregation.



Lodging House Mission – Harvest Donation Requests 2024

Thank you for your continued support for LHM, we really appreciate it. We have put together a list of things that are urgently needed in the kitchen. Ideally, we would prefer donations of food stuff however we understand that this may be difficult for you. If you are able to make a financial contribution, we will ensure it is used wisely. We love fresh produce to allow us to prepare healthy and nutritious lunches for those who use our service and will buy these, as required, to prevent food waste. We hope that you find this list helpful when choosing something to donate. Thank you from all of us here at LHM.

Cereal	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Meat / Fish
Corn Flakes/Crunchy Nuts	*Peaches	Tuna/Salmon
Weetabix	*Pears	Corned beef
Rice Crispies	*Pineapples	Ham
Sugar Puffs	*Mandarins	
Frosties	*Fruit Cocktail	Other Tinned Food
Coco Pops	*Rice Pudding	*Baked Beans
Cheerios	*Custard	Spaghetti in sauce
		*Tinned Soups – tomato, vegetable, chicken, lentil, scotch broth, minestrone, pea & ham, chicken noodle
Jars/Pastes	Other	
Pasta bake sauces	Full Fat UHT milk	
Curry Sauce/paste	Coconut Milk	
Tomato paste	Small juice cartons	
	Diluting/fresh juice	Other
Dried Goods	*Coffee	Brown Sauce
Mixed herbs	*Biscuits	Tomato Sauce
Garlic powder	Crisps	Vinegar
Ground turmeric		Porridge oats
Chilli powder	Kettle Foods	Dried peas
Crushed chillies	Pot Noodles	Lentils / Broth mix
Ground coriander	Cuppa Soups	Olive oil
Black pepper	Tinned Potatoes	*Vegetable oil
Salt	Sachets dried mash potato	*Bisto
Pasta	Ring Pull Ham tins	*Veg Stock cubes/ bullion
Long grain rice	Breakfast bars	*Jelly
	Cereal Bars	*Sugar
Toiletries (all types)	Individual packets sweets	Jam
*OUT OF STOCK – URGENTLY NEEDED		

Not Required List

Salad Cream/Mayonnaise	Shredded Wheat Cereal	Red Kidney Beans
Pearl Barley	Muesli	Chickpeas
Marmalade	Alpen	Prunes
Grapefruit	Clothing	Bedding/duvets/towels

New Alarm at the Extension of the Administrative Detention of Layan Nasir, a 23-year-old Palestinian Anglican woman held without charge since 6 April 2024

Stewart Gillan and Muriel Pearson

CoS Mission Partners, Jerusalem and Tiberias

29 July 2024

‘Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.’

(Hebrews 13.3, NRSV)



Layan Nasir

‘I have just had bad news that Layan’s detention has been extended for a further four months. Very upsetting.’ So, reports Richard Sewell this morning, Dean of St George’s College in East Jerusalem, replying to our request today for an update on Layan Nasir.

Three weeks ago, we learned that an Israeli Military judge had denied an appeal for her release. An Action Alert issued by the US Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations on 11 July voiced deep concern in about the manner in which Layan was taken, her ongoing detention, and the broader system of administrative detention that means many thousands of Palestinians are kept in custody for months, their families barred from visiting. Here is the link: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts/?vvsrsrc=%2FCampaigns%2F116465%2FRespond#!>

You will wish to know more.

Writing on 12 July, the Rev Dr Don Binder, Chaplain to Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and Primate of the Anglican Communion in the Middle East, provided background to Layan's story. 'Back in April, Nasir's mother, Lulu Nasir, told Sky News that soldiers arrived at the family's home at 4am on April 6 and threatened them with guns as they searched the house before taking her daughter into custody. Israel hasn't given any reason for Nasir's detention. She is being held at Damon Prison near Haifa.'

Layan is a member of St Peter's Anglican Church in the Occupied West Bank city of Birzeit. No timeline for charges, trial or release has been set in her case. Nasir's priest, the Rev Fadi Diab, and her family have been barred from visiting her.

Israel has arrested more than 9,700 Palestinians from the West Bank since the Israel-Hamas war started in October 2023, according to Addameer, a Palestinian prisoner support and human rights NGO based in Ramallah in the West Bank.

Call for prayer and advocacy:

We join with Layan's family (mother Lulu, father Sami, twin brother Basil), her Church (the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, our partner), and fellow students at Birzeit University on the West Bank, in requesting that you remember Layan and her fellow detainees in prayer.

We appeal to you to write letters to your MSPs and MPs to advocate for her release and, while her detention continues, for her family and Rev Diab to be allowed to visit her.

A conversation in June with Archbishop Hosam saw him emphasise the point that Layan is being held in administrative detention, urging that we call for an end to detention without charge.

Can we remember Layan and her fellow detainees as though we were in Damon prison with them? Let us be bold to take up this call, remembering with humility that we rest in the power of the Holy Spirit, as we search for the words to say. Thank-you.

Stewart Gillan

Muriel Pearson



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2024



Glasgow Churches Together
Creation Sunday Service
Sunday 15th September
4pm
Pollokshaws Parish Church
223 Shawbridge Street Glasgow
G43 1QN

**You are invited to Join Church Representatives
Christian Aid and Communities
As We Pray for the Future of Our Planet in this
Season of Creation**

A Representative from Christian Aid
will speak and tell us of their vital work
a collection will be taken up for Christian Aid
The St Mungo Singers will lead music
We look forward to welcoming you

*There will be an opportunity to meet afterwards for refreshments and chat about how we
can do more for our environment*



**Your
Church
Needs**



Please excuse the bluntness of this message but our wee church, Stepps Parish Church, needs you. Yes, YOU!!

Our dwindling numbers of Elders and Trustees are stretched to bursting.

More and more responsibility is resting on fewer and fewer faithful but tired folk.

To be able to survive in these challenging times for the Church of Scotland, we are in desperate need for more members to step up to the plate, as they are able.

We can all help, according to our skills.

Please consider how you can contribute to the future sustainability of our church.

We are not asking for a huge commitment but if half our members gave an hour of their time each week,

this would significantly reduce the burden on others buckling under the weight of juggling several roles.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN ELDER OR TRUSTEE TO HELP.

The skills of any member of the Congregation will be welcomed.

Speak to our Session Clerk or to any Elder to offer your skills, however small.

Consider volunteering for the following roles/tasks (or those which will feature in future editions of Prospect).

THANKYOU

CURRENT ROLES/TASKS

- Help is needed by the BB Company to assist in supervising the boys on a Monday evening
- Do you have a skill you can offer to run an activity class at the Chestnut Café on a Thursday morning?
 - Are you good with figures and can assist our Treasurer?
- Can you phone a housebound member of our church family to keep them in touch and alleviate loneliness?
- Are you able to assist in serving teas and coffees after Sunday worship?
 - Can you join the Bible reading rota?
 - Can you lend your singing voice to our Sunday Choir?

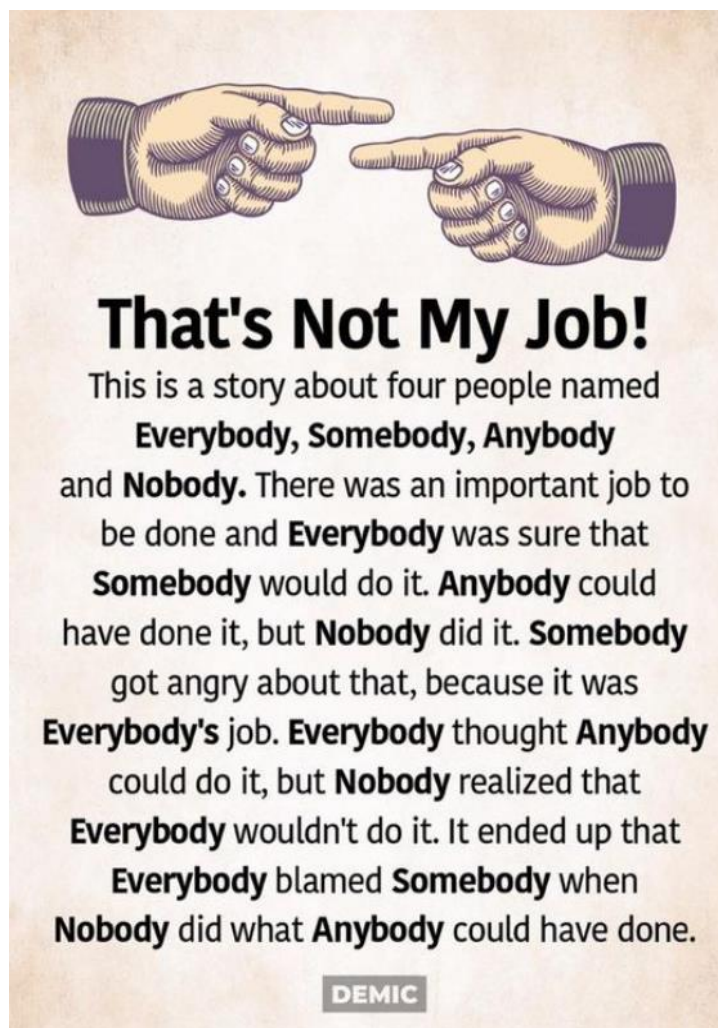


Image courtesy of DEMIC