Investment Fund Services

# IFSL Church House UK Equity Growth Fund

Interim Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the six month period ended 30 September 2023



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Authorised Fund Manager (AFM) and Registrar

Investment Fund Services Limited (IFSL) Marlborough House 59 Chorley New Road Bolton BL1 4QP

Investor Support: (0808) 178 9321 (FREEPHONE)

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

## **Directors of IFSL**

Andrew Staley (Non-Executive) Allan Hamer Dom Clarke Helen Redmond Helen Derbyshire Sally Helston Guy Sears (Independent Non-Executive) Sarah Peaston (Independent Non-Executive)

# **Investment Manager**

Church House Investments Limited York House 6 Coldharbour Sherborne Dorset DT9 4JW

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

## Trustee

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited 250 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4AA

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

## Auditor

Ernst & Young LLP Atria One 144 Morrison Street Edinburgh EH3 8EX

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# AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the six month period ended 30 September 2023

#### Performance to 30 September 2023

	Six months	<u>1 year</u>	<u>3 years</u>	<u>5 years</u>
IFSL Church House UK Equity Growth Fund	(2.61)%	10.15%	11.49%	3.26%
IA UK All Companies Sector	0.11%	12.61%	25.86%	9.76%
External Source of Feenemic Date, Merningster (Alineenee, guete	Inviga to avated puipe, potiped	(hoto rein)		

External Source of Economic Data: Morningstar (A Income - quoted price to quoted price, net income reinvested).

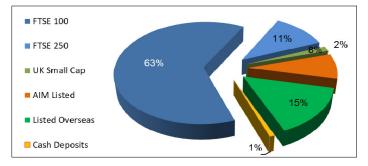
The performance figures above are based on quoted prices and will, therefore, differ from the performance in the Comparative Table. Capital at risk. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance; the value of your investment and any income from it can go down as well as up. Performance returns are based on the net asset value with distributable income reinvested and take account of all ongoing charges, but not entry charges (if applicable). The past performance of this unit class is calculated in sterling.

#### Investment commentary

Over the six months, we took the opportunity of depressed market levels to top-up our holdings in several of the core positions in the portfolio. It is rare that such impressive businesses trade on discounts, particularly across multiple sectors. This is a wonderful time to be putting new money to work. In the Industrials space, we added to our holdings in steam-engineers Spirax-Sarco and maker of niche scientific instruments Judges Scientific. In Materials, we were buyers of Croda, the Yorkshire-based supplier of natural active ingredients to the cosmetics industry. If you have ever splashed out on expensive skin-care products, then it is more than likely that this contained Croda's lanolin.

Within Financials, shares in London Stock Exchange Group and Experian came back into buying range and we duly added to both. This is a classic case of the market turning against a whole sector due to macroeconomic concerns, when in fact both LSEG and Experian have, time and again, proven their ability to grow through good times and bad. Experian, after all, make their money by selling data on individuals to the institutions that offer those people credit (think banks, health insurance, retailers) – in tricky times these institutions need to be even more diligent than ever to ensure their credit lines are tight.

Church House UK Equity Growth - Disposition - 29 September 2023



#### Source: Church House

To fund these additions, we sold two positions – Heineken and Genus. We purchased Heineken shares in the depths of COVID on the basis that the brand was bullet-proof and that times could only get better. What has changed is that it looks to us like the next generation will, on balance, drink more spirits and less beer than the baby boomers – one can already see this happening in America with the decline of previous stalwarts like Budweiser and Coors vs increasing sales of tequila and rum. This should be good news for our investment in Diageo, but not so for Heineken. Meanwhile, we felt that Genus (who sell to pork, beef and dairy farmers globally) were fighting an uphill battle in their key Chinese market against both swine fever and geopolitics that was not going away any time soon.

On a more cheerful note, InterContinental Hotels Group have been enjoying an impressive run over the past couple of months, with customers returning and their shares having now more than doubled since the first COVID lockdowns. IHG continue to open new hotels and we see the potential for more growth to come.

## AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the six month period ended 30 September 2023

Top 15 Holdings as at 29 September 2023:

RELX	6.60%
Diploma	5.70%
Spirax-Sarco Engineering	4.70%
Halma	4.60%
Dechra Pharmaceuticals	4.40%
Diageo	4.20%
Unilever	4.00%
Croda International	3.70%
Microsoft	3.60%
Greggs	3.60%
AstraZeneca	3.40%
Judges Scientific	3.10%
Ashtead Group	2.90%
London Stock Exchange	2.90%
Auto Trader Group	2.90%
Source: Church House Investments Limited.	

Our top holdings remain consistent, reflecting the long-term nature of our approach. Of particular note this half, RELX (our largest position) continues to surprise us positively and their shares are hitting new all-time highs.

Dechra Pharmaceuticals still appears in this list though, sadly for us, this excellent UK pet pharmaceuticals company has succumbed to a bid, despite our grumbles. This is a cash bid, which is scheduled to complete at the end of the year, so the holding should not appear next time.

Church House Investments Limited 3 November 2023

Distributions				
	<u>Year 2023</u>	<u>Year 2022</u>	<u>Year 2021</u>	<u>Year 2020</u>
A Income (pence per unit)				
Net income paid 31 May	0.2726	0.1690	-	0.3350
Net income paid 30 November	0.4292	0.2320	0.2710	0.2610
A Accumulation (pence per unit)	0.0000	0.4700		0 4000
Net accumulation paid 31 May	0.3296	0.1760	-	0.4000
Net accumulation paid 30 November	0.5399	0.2790	0.3250	0.3180
B Income (pence per unit)				
Net income paid 31 May	0.8410	0.8510	0.4370	0.8920
Net income paid 30 November	1.0326	0.8250	0.9200	0.7770
B Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 31 May	1.0764	1.0490	0.5520	1,1140
Net accumulation paid 30 November	1.3216	1.0510	1.1540	0.9750
				0101.00
Z Income (pence per unit)				
Net income paid 31 May	1.1002	1.1300	0.6840	N/A
Net income paid 30 November	1.3029	1.0920	1.2210	0.2970
Z Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 31 May	1.3886	1.4210	0.9300	N/A
Net accumulation paid 30 November	1.6415	1.3870	1.5180	0.0340

# AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the six month period ended 30 September 2023

# Portfolio changes

Largest purchases	<u>Cost (£)</u>
Young & Co's Brewery 'A'	1,220,855
Spirax-Sarco Engineering	537,814
Croda International	535,508
Experian	274,373
London Stock Exchange Group	239,932
IFSL Church House UK Smaller Companies 'B'	104,175
Total purchases for the period	2,912,657
Largest sales	Proceeds (£)
Largest sales Heineken	<u>Proceeds (£)</u> 1,271,690
	<del></del>
Heineken	1,271,690
Heineken Genus	1,271,690 1,217,885
Heineken Genus Barclays	1,271,690 1,217,885 1,135,687
Heineken Genus Barclays Close Brothers Group	1,271,690 1,217,885 1,135,687 998,408

## AUTHORISED STATUS

IFSL Church House UK Equity Growth Fund (the Fund) is an authorised unit trust scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and is a UCITS scheme operating under the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook (COLL) as issued by the Financial Conduct Authority.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### Investment objective

The investment objective of the Fund is to provide capital growth over the long term (at least five years).

#### Investment policy

The Fund is actively managed. At least 80% of the Fund's assets are invested in shares of UK companies (those incorporated or domiciled in the UK). The focus of the Fund is on larger capitalisation companies, which the Authorised Fund Manager (AFM) defines as those with a market capitalisation of at least £1bn at the time of purchase. Up to 20% of the Fund may be invested in other assets: the shares of companies with a smaller capitalisation, the shares of overseas companies, fixed interest securities (including floating rate notes, index linked or convertible fixed interest securities), money market instruments and cash.

#### **Assessing Performance**

The Investment Association (IA), the trade body for UK investment managers, has created a number of 'sectors', as a way of dividing funds into broad groups with similar characteristics.

The Fund's investment policy puts it in the IA UK All Companies sector. The Fund is not managed to a benchmark, however you may want to assess the Fund's performance compared to the performance of this sector.

## Rights and terms attaching to each unit class

A unit of each class represents a proportional entitlement to the assets of the Fund. The allocation of income and taxation and the rights of each unit in the event the Fund is wound up are on the same proportional basis.

#### **Changes in prospectus**

There have been no significant changes since the last annual report.

Up to date Key Investor Information Documents, Prospectus and Long Reports and Financial Statements for any fund within the AFM's range, can be requested by the investor at any time.

## **DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook as issued and amended by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Allan Hamer Director

Investment Fund Services Limited 29 November 2023

Reamon

Helen Redmond Director

# COMPARATIVE TABLE

<u>A Income units</u> Change in net assets per unit	Period to 30.09.2023 pence	Year to 31.03.2023 pence	Year to 31.03.2022 pence	Year to 31.03.2021 pence
Opening net asset value per unit	188.99	193.56	187.01	145.48
Return before operating charges*	(3.51)	(1.27)	10.19	44.41
Operating charges	(1.47)	(2.80)	(3.20)	(2.62)
Return after operating charges*	(4.98)	(4.07)	6.99	41.79
Distributions on income units	(0.43)	(0.50)	(0.44)	(0.26)
Closing net asset value per unit	183.58	188.99	193.56	187.01
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.02	0.11	0.19	0.31
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	(2.64)%	(2.10)%	3.74%	28.73%
Other information				
Closing net asset value	48,108,559	50,873,688	53,167,587	51,566,564
Closing number of units	26,206,330	26,918,116	27,467,986	27,573,648
Operating charges	1.56% <sup>B</sup>	1.56%	1.56%	1.56%
Direct transaction costs	0.02% <sup>B</sup>	0.06%	0.09%	0.18%
Prices (pence per unit)				
Highest unit price	197.30	197.80	223.50	191.60
Lowest unit price	181.20	165.80	174.30	139.20
A Accumulation units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
Change in net assets per unit	30.09.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
	pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	<b>pence</b> 230.86	235.78	227.31	176.53
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges*	<b>pence</b> 230.86 (4.28)	235.78 (1.50)	227.31 12.36	176.53 53.97
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges	<b>pence</b> 230.86 (4.28) (1.80)	235.78 (1.50) (3.42)	227.31 12.36 (3.89)	<u>176.53</u> 53.97 (3.19)
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges*	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92)	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61)	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50)	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32)
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61)	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50)	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32)
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of:	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b>	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77%
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information Closing net asset value	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23 3.73% 5,161,982	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77% 5,453,795
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03           (2.63)%           4,614,640           2,052,961	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13 (2.09)% 4,748,013 2,056,677	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23 3.73% 5,161,982 2,189,337	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77% 5,453,795 2,399,235
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information Closing net asset value	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03           (2.63)%           4,614,640           2,052,961           1.56% <sup>B</sup>	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13 (2.09)% 4,748,013	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23 3.73% 5,161,982	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77% 5,453,795
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of units	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03           (2.63)%           4,614,640           2,052,961	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13 (2.09)% 4,748,013 2,056,677	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23 3.73% 5,161,982 2,189,337	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77% 5,453,795 2,399,235
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>A</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03           (2.63)%           4,614,640           2,052,961           1.56% <sup>B</sup>	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13 (2.09)% 4,748,013 2,056,677 1.56%	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23 3.73% 5,161,982 2,189,337 1.56%	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77% 5,453,795 2,399,235 1.56%
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>A</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs <b>Prices</b> (pence per unit)	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03           (2.63)%           4,614,640           2,052,961           1.56% <sup>B</sup> 0.02% <sup>B</sup>	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13 (2.09)% 4,748,013 2,056,677 1.56% 0.06%	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23 3.73% 5,161,982 2,189,337 1.56% 0.09%	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77% 5,453,795 2,399,235 1.56% 0.18%
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>A</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs	pence           230.86           (4.28)           (1.80)           (6.08)           (0.54)           0.54           224.78           0.03           (2.63)%           4,614,640           2,052,961           1.56% <sup>B</sup>	235.78 (1.50) (3.42) (4.92) (0.61) 0.61 230.86 0.13 (2.09)% 4,748,013 2,056,677 1.56%	227.31 12.36 (3.89) 8.47 (0.50) 0.50 235.78 0.23 3.73% 5,161,982 2,189,337 1.56%	176.53 53.97 (3.19) 50.78 (0.32) 0.32 227.31 0.37 28.77% 5,453,795 2,399,235 1.56%

<sup>A</sup> The return after charges is calculated using the underlying investments bid prices. <sup>B</sup> These figures have been annualised

# COMPARATIVE TABLE

<u>B Income units</u> Change in net assets per unit	Period to 30.09.2023	Year to 31.03.2023	Year to 31.03.2022	Year to 31.03.2021
Opening not esset value per unit	<b>pence</b> 190.82	<b>pence</b> 195.47	<b>pence</b> 188.89	<b>pence</b> 146.83
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges*	(3.57)	(1.28)	10.25	44.88
Operating charges	(0.89)	(1.20)	(1.90)	(1.61)
Return after operating charges*	(4.46)	(2.98)	8.35	43.27
Distributions on income units	(1.03)	(1.67)	(1.77)	(1.21)
Closing net asset value per unit	185.33	190.82	195.47	188.89
	100.00	100.02	100.47	100.00
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.02	0.11	0.20	0.19
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	(2.34)%	(1.52)%	4.42%	29.47%
Other information				
Closing net asset value	14,619,115	14,331,784	13,914,892	10,324,612
Closing number of units	7,888,275	7,510,801	7,118,829	5,465,923
Operating charges	0.94% <sup>B</sup>	0.93%	0.93%	0.93%
Direct transaction costs	0.02% <sup>B</sup>	0.06%	0.09%	0.18%
Prices (pence per unit)				
Highest unit price	199.40	199.80	226.10	193.80
Lowest unit price	183.50	167.40	176.50	140.50
	100.00	101.40	110.00	140.00
B Accumulation units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
Change in net assets per unit	30.09.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
	pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	244.17	247.80	237.40	183.18
Return before operating charges*	(4.56)	(1.47)	12.82	56.19
Operating charges	(1.14)	(2.16)	(2.42)	(1.97)
Return after operating charges*	(5.70)	(3.63)	10.40	54.22
Distributions on accumulation units	(1.32)	(2.13)	(2.20)	(1.53)
Retained distributions on accumulation units	1.32	2.13	2.20	1.53
		<u> </u>		00- 10
Closing net asset value per unit	238.47	244.17	247.80	237.40
* after direct transaction costs of:	238.47 0.03	244.17 0.14	247.80 0.24	<u>237.40</u> 0.35
-				
* after direct transaction costs of:				
* after direct transaction costs of: Performance	0.03	0.14	0.24	0.35
* after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	0.03	0.14	0.24	0.35
* after direct transaction costs of: Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information	0.03 (2.33)% 11,070,363 4,642,241	0.14 (1.46)%	0.24 4.38%	0.35 29.60%
* after direct transaction costs of: Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information Closing net asset value	0.03 (2.33)% 11,070,363 4,642,241 0.94% <sup>B</sup>	0.14 (1.46)% 11,164,522	0.24 4.38% 9,771,087	0.35 29.60% 8,843,405
<ul> <li>* after direct transaction costs of:</li> <li>Performance Return after charges<sup>A</sup></li> <li>Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of units</li> </ul>	0.03 (2.33)% 11,070,363 4,642,241	0.14 (1.46)% 11,164,522 4,572,431	0.24 4.38% 9,771,087 3,943,174	0.35 29.60% 8,843,405 3,725,110
* after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>A</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs	0.03 (2.33)% 11,070,363 4,642,241 0.94% <sup>B</sup>	0.14 (1.46)% 11,164,522 4,572,431 0.93%	0.24 4.38% 9,771,087 3,943,174 0.93%	0.35 29.60% 8,843,405 3,725,110 0.93%
<ul> <li>* after direct transaction costs of:</li> <li>Performance Return after charges<sup>A</sup></li> <li>Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs</li> <li>Prices (pence per unit)</li> </ul>	0.03 (2.33)% 11,070,363 4,642,241 0.94% <sup>B</sup> 0.02% <sup>B</sup>	0.14 (1.46)% 11,164,522 4,572,431 0.93% 0.06%	0.24 4.38% 9,771,087 3,943,174 0.93% 0.09%	0.35 29.60% 8,843,405 3,725,110 0.93% 0.18%
* after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>A</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs	0.03 (2.33)% 11,070,363 4,642,241 0.94% <sup>B</sup>	0.14 (1.46)% 11,164,522 4,572,431 0.93%	0.24 4.38% 9,771,087 3,943,174 0.93%	0.35 29.60% 8,843,405 3,725,110 0.93%

<sup>A</sup> The return after charges is calculated using the underlying investments bid prices. <sup>B</sup> These figures have been annualised

# COMPARATIVE TABLE

<u>Z Income units</u> Change in net assets per unit	Period to 30.09.2023 pence	Year to 31.03.2023 pence	Year to 31.03.2022 pence	Period to 31.03.2021 <sup>A</sup> pence
Opening net asset value per unit	192.70	197.41	190.78	166.20
Return before operating charges*	(3.62)	(1.31)	10.35	26.20
Operating charges	(0.64)	(1.21)	(1.37)	(0.64)
Return after operating charges*	(4.26)	(2.52)	8.98	25.56
Distributions on income units	(1.30)	(2.19)	(2.35)	(0.98)
Closing net asset value per unit	187.14	192.70	197.41	190.78
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.02	0.11	0.21	0.14
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>C</sup>	(2.21)%	(1.28)%	4.71%	15.38%
Other information				
Closing net asset value	3,466,504	3,752,256	3,755,721	1,907,814
Closing number of units	1,852,329	1,947,244	1,902,508	1,000,000
Operating charges	0.66% <sup>D</sup>	0.66%	0.66%	0.66%
Direct transaction costs	0.02% <sup>D</sup>	0.06%	0.09%	0.18%
Prices (pence per unit)				
Highest unit price	201.40	201.80	228.50	195.90
Lowest unit price	185.50	169.10	178.50	162.90
Z Accumulation units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Period to
Change in net assets per unit	30.09.2023	31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2021 <sup>B</sup>
	pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	<b>pence</b> 245.96	<b>pence</b> 248.94	<b>pence</b> 237.83	<b>pence</b> 208.02
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges*	<b>pence</b> 245.96 (4.62)	<b>pence</b> 248.94 (1.45)	<b>pence</b> 237.83 12.81	<b>pence</b> 208.02 30.25
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges	<b>pence</b> 245.96 (4.62) (0.82)	<b>pence</b> 248.94 (1.45) (1.53)	<b>pence</b> 237.83 12.81 (1.70)	208.02 30.25 (0.44)
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges*	pence 245.96 (4.62) (0.82) (5.44)	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)	<b>pence</b> 237.83 12.81 (1.70) 11.11	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of:	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b>	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>C</sup>	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: Performance Return after charges <sup>C</sup> Other information	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03           (2.21)%           4,538,326           1,886,888	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14           (1.20)%	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25           4.67%	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08           14.33%
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>C</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03           (2.21)%           4,538,326           1,886,888           0.66% <sup>D</sup>	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14           (1.20)%           6,177,197	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25           4.67%           6,453,127	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08           14.33%           4,484,334
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>C</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03           (2.21)%           4,538,326           1,886,888	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14           (1.20)%           6,177,197           2,511,473	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25           4.67%           6,453,127           2,592,210	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08           14.33%           4,484,334           1,885,486
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>C</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03           (2.21)%           4,538,326           1,886,888           0.66% <sup>D</sup>	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14           (1.20)%           6,177,197           2,511,473           0.66%	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25           4.67%           6,453,127           2,592,210           0.66%	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08           14.33%           4,484,334           1,885,486           0.66%
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>C</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03           (2.21)%           4,538,326           1,886,888           0.66% <sup>D</sup>	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14           (1.20)%           6,177,197           2,511,473           0.66%	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25           4.67%           6,453,127           2,592,210           0.66%	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08           14.33%           4,484,334           1,885,486           0.66%
Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit * after direct transaction costs of: <b>Performance</b> Return after charges <sup>C</sup> <b>Other information</b> Closing net asset value Closing number of units Operating charges Direct transaction costs <b>Prices</b> (pence per unit)	pence           245.96           (4.62)           (0.82)           (5.44)           (1.64)           1.64           240.52           0.03           (2.21)%           4,538,326           1,886,888           0.66% <sup>D</sup> 0.02% <sup>D</sup>	pence           248.94           (1.45)           (1.53)           (2.98)           (2.78)           2.78           245.96           0.14           (1.20)%           6,177,197           2,511,473           0.66%           0.06%	pence           237.83           12.81           (1.70)           11.11           (2.94)           2.94           248.94           0.25           4.67%           6,453,127           2,592,210           0.66%           0.09%	pence           208.02           30.25           (0.44)           29.81           (0.96)           0.96           237.83           0.08           14.33%           4,484,334           1,885,486           0.66%           0.18%

<sup>A</sup> Opening net asset value per unit on 1 July 2020.
 <sup>B</sup> Opening net asset value per unit on 1 September 2020.

<sup>c</sup> The return after charges is calculated using the underlying investments bid prices.

<sup>D</sup> These figures have been annualised

Operating charges are the same as the ongoing charges and are the total expenses paid by each unit class in the period. Direct transaction costs are the total charges for the period, included in the purchase and sale of investments in the portfolio of the Fund. These amounts are expressed as a percentage of the average net asset value over the period and the average units in issue for the pence per unit figures.

# SYNTHETIC RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (all unit classes)

Lower risk						Higher risk
Typically lower rew	vards				Туріс	ally higher rewards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

This indicator aims to give you a measure of the price movement of the Fund based on past data. It uses historic returns over the last five years. If five years' data is not available, simulated data based on a representative portfolio are used.

The Fund has been measured as 6 because its investments have experienced high volatility in the past. During the period the synthetic risk and reward indicator has remained unchanged.

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 30 September 2023

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	UNITED KINGDOM EQUITIES (31 March 2023 - 83.26%)	£	70
	COMMUNICATION SERVICES (31 March 2023 - 2.66%)		
400,000	Auto Trader Group	2,484,800	2.88
	Total Communication Services	2,484,800	2.88
	CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY (31 March 2023 - 14.42%)		
,	Compass Group	2,115,750	2.45
	Greggs	3,057,500	3.54
	InterContinental Hotels Group	2,003,300	2.32
	JD Sports Fashion	2,395,200	2.77
	The Berkeley Group Holdings	1,439,550	1.67
	Trainline	1,659,600	1.92
100,000	Young & Co's Brewery 'A'	1,070,000	1.24
	Total Consumer Discretionary	13,740,900	15.91
	CONSUMER STAPLES (31 March 2023 - 10.80%)		
	Diageo	3,672,600	4.25
	Fevertree Drinks	1,812,000	2.10
85,000	Unilever	3,471,825	4.02
	Total Consumer Staples	8,956,425	10.37
	FINANCIALS (31 March 2023 - 9.91%)		
	Beazley	2,092,230	2.42
30,500	London Stock Exchange Group	2,529,670	2.93
540,000	Schroders	2,223,720	2.57
	Total Financials	6,845,620	7.92
	HEALTH CARE (31 March 2023 - 7.92%)		
26,500	AstraZeneca	2,971,180	3.44
100,000	Dechra Pharmaceuticals	3,794,000	4.39
	Total Health Care	6,765,180	7.83
	INDUSTRIALS (31 March 2023 - 25.32%)		
50,000	Ashtead Group	2,524,000	2.92
	Diploma	4,973,100	5.75
	Experian	2,162,400	2.50
	Howden Joinery Group	1,982,340	2.29
	Judges Scientific	2,640,000	3.05
202,500		5,661,900	6.55
	Spirax-Sarco Engineering	4,082,550	4.72
	Total Industrials	24,026,290	27.78
	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (31 March 2023 - 7.26%)		
202,500		3,941,663	4.56
	Keywords Studios	1,180,410	1.37
,	Total Information Technology	5,122,073	5.93
	MATERIALS (31 March 2023 - 3.96%)		
65 000	Croda International	3,183,700	3.68
00,000	Total Materials	3,183,700	3.68
	<b>REAL ESTATE</b> (31 March 2023 - 1.01%)		
	Total United Kingdom Equities	71,124,988	82.30
	EUROPEAN EQUITIES (31 March 2023 - 8.72%)		
150,000	Investor	2,380,238	2.75
5,000	L'Oréal	1,719,239	1.99
	Deskallalding	2,248,055	2.60
10,000	Roche Holding	2,240,000	2.00

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 30 September 2023

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	UNITED STATES EQUITIES (31 March 2023 - 6.31%)		
20,000	Alphabet 'A'	2,157,182	2.50
5,500	Berkshire Hathaway 'B'	1,600,946	1.85
12,000	Microsoft	3,067,895	3.55
	Total United States Equities	6,826,023	7.90
	COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEMES (31 March 2023 - 1.43%)		
1,025,000	IFSL Church House UK Smaller Companies 'B'	1,354,025	1.57
	Total Collective Investment Schemes	1,354,025	1.57
	Portfolio of investments	85,652,568	99.11
	Net other assets	764,939	0.89
	Total net assets	86,417,507	100.00

All investments are listed on recognised stock exchanges and are approved securities or regulated collective investment schemes within the meaning of the FCA rules unless otherwise stated.

PORTFOLIO TRANSACTION
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for the six month period ended 30 September 2023	£
Total purchases costs, including transaction charges	2,912,657
Total sales proceeds, net of transaction charges	5,505,974

# STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the six month period ended 30 September 2023

	30 Septem	ber 2023	30 Septem	ber 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Net capital losses		(2,554,488)		(11,911,916)
Revenue	908,568		814,729	
Expenses	(574,145)		(576,013)	
Net revenue before taxation	334,423		238,716	
Taxation	(6,535)		(5,682)	
Net revenue after taxation		327,888		233,034
Total return before distributions		(2,226,600)		(11,678,882)
Distributions		(327,888)		(232,947)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from				
investment activities		(2,554,488)		(11,911,829)

# STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS

for the six month period ended 30 September 2023

	30 Septembe	er 2023	30 Septemb	er 2022
	£	£	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders	А	91,047,460		92,224,396
Amounts receivable on issue of units Amounts payable on cancellation of units	2,542,963 (4,721,834)	(2,178,871)	4,074,602 (1,822,479)	2,252,123
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		(2,554,488)		(11,911,829)
Retained distribution on accumulation units		103,406		92,780
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders		86,417,507	A _	82,657,470

<sup>A</sup> These figures are not the same as the comparatives are taken from the preceding interim period and not the last annual accounts.

## **BALANCE SHEET**

as at 30 September 2023

	30 September 2023 £	31 March 2023 £
Assets:		
Fixed Assets:		
Investments	85,652,568	90,792,684
Current Assets:		
Debtors	232,719	620,362
Cash and bank balances	942,880	345,576
Total assets	86,828,167	91,758,622
Liabilities:		
Creditors:		
Distribution payable on income units	218,074	157,980
Other creditors	192,586	553,182
Total liabilities	410,660	711,162
Net assets attributable to unitholders	86,417,507	91,047,460

# NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the six month period ended 30 September 2023

## **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association (renamed to the Investment Association) in May 2014, and amended in June 2017.

The interim financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Fund. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The interim financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments and certain financial instruments at fair value.

#### Accounting policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 and are described in those annual financial statements.

The investments of the Fund have been valued at their fair value at 12 noon on 29 September 2023.

Investment Fund Services Limited Marlborough House, 59 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4QP

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Investment Fund Services