# IFSL Church House Esk Global Equity Fund

Interim Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the six month period ended 31 March 2024



## **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 Derbyshire - resigned, 11 December 2023
Helen Redmond
Sally Helston
Guy Sears (Independent Non-Executive) - resigned, 25 March 2024
Katherine Damsell (Independent Non-Executive) - appointed, 25 March 2024
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 & 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 31 March 2024

#### Performance to 31 March 2024

	Six months	<u>1 year</u>	<u>3 years</u>	<u>5 years</u>
IFSL Church House ESK Global Equity Fund	15.58%	18.20%	33.98%	76.98%
IA Global sector	15.35%	16.81%	22.79%	61.72%

External Source of Economic Data: Morningstar (B 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

## Performance statement

Over the six months to 31 March 2024, the Fund's B Income units rose 15.6%. Over this period the IA Global sector gained 15.4%.

Whilst the Fund does not have a specific benchmark, you may want to consider its performance against this IA sector.

#### Market review

The six-month period to the end of March saw strong gains for international equity markets led by the US and, in particular, by technology companies in the NASDAQ Index. Much of the focus was on the so-called Magnificent Seven of leading US technology stocks, Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia and Tesla, which outshone most of the markets. Performance did, encouragingly, even out over the latter three months.

The leading European markets in France and Germany have also been strong, though Switzerland, with a greater preponderance of 'defensive' companies, did not do so well. Unfortunately, the UK market was the laggard in this group. Japanese markets have been strong, but China and Hong Kong have been moving in the opposite direction, both being lower over this period.

## Fund performance review

The overall performance of the Fund was satisfactory but, as ever, there have been a few detractors. Rémy Cointreau fell after being spooked by a warning on sales from Diageo, which reverberated around the spirits' sector. Nestlé has had a dismal year and continues to underperform while Roche Holding has also weakened in a generally dull period for pharmaceutical companies.

There have been several less well-known companies among the top performers, notably, Paccar, the US truck maker, stands out with a gain that was greater than most of the technology companies, while Novonesis (formerly Novozymes) was strong throughout the period. The luxury goods companies in the portfolio performed strongly, led by Hermès and Ferrari, while Cencora, a relatively new addition to the portfolio in pharmaceutical distribution services, had a strong period as did long-time holding Stryker Corp.

With the exception of Apple, which was essentially unchanged over this period, all the technology related holdings did well, led by the biggest holding, Microsoft. Ansys jumped in late December and an agreed bid for the company was announced at the beginning of January from Synopsys. Ansys share price remains at a discount to the value of the bid, and we are watching developments.

## Portfolio activity

The list of the top holdings in the Fund has not changed significantly. We made a small reduction in the Microsoft holding in January, taking the weighting back down to 5% after the stock hit new all-time highs. Microsoft remains as our favoured long-term holding in the area, but many technology stocks are vulnerable to a set-back after the strength of recent moves.

We reduced the holding in Apple in mid-November, acknowledging the strength of the move over the year. We have also sold the complete holding in Industrivarden, which had a good year, preferring to focus on the other Swedish holding company, Investor AB. We reduced the holding in L'Oréal a shade, concerned that there was scope for some of the (luxury) goods companies to disappoint with a slow-down in Europe and China. We sold the complete holding in the US bio-pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences, in favour of adding further to the Cencora and UnitedHealth Group holdings, both being relatively new positions where we can see better value and predictability.

We added to the holding in Rémy Cointreau after the set-back mentioned above, feeling that the fall had been overdone. Heineken produced more rather lacklustre figures and we have sold the holding in favour of commencing a new position in Coca-Cola. Coke produced more good figures in February but, after an initial flurry, these have largely been ignored. The quality and consistency of this company is outstanding, and their current rating is a fair price to initiate.

## **AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

for the six month period ended 31 March 2024

## Investment commentary (continued)

## Top 15 holdings

Microsoft	4.98%
Alphabet 'A'	4.67%
Mastercard 'A'	3.85%
Amazon.com	3.78%
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton	3.75%
Stryker	3.67%
RELX	3.35%
Oracle	2.90%
Ferrari	2.90%
Apple	2.87%
Intuit	2.87%
Hermès International	2.86%
Investor 'B'	2.77%
Johnson & Johnson	2.66%
L'Oréal	2.61%

## Investment outlook

After the strength of international equity markets over the past six months, particularly the US market, there is clearly scope for a short-term setback. But the US economy is, once again, demonstrating its resilience in the face of significantly higher interest rates and some grim geo-political developments. The US Federal Reserve raised their base interest rates sixteen times over the course of the past two years to a level not seen since 2001. We expect that they will be able to ease rates later this year, but this is not certain given the strength of their economy.

We remain as committed long-term investors in high quality companies that we consider are the best placed to prosper over the long-term and weather any short-term problems.

Church House Investments Limited 30 April 2024

## **Distributions**

	Year 2024	Year 2023	Year 2022	Year 2021
A Income (pence per unit)				
Net income paid 31 May	-	0.1570	-	0.0230
Net income paid 30 November		1.4917	1.0160	1.0940
A Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 31 May	0.1121	0.1989	-	0.0530
Net accumulation paid 30 November		1.7315	1.0370	0.8460
B Income (pence per unit)				
Net income paid 31 May	0.7900	0.8742	0.5790	0.6700
Net income paid 30 November		2.2747	1.8830	1.8180
B Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 31 May	0.8549	0.9588	0.6200	0.7150
Net accumulation paid 30 November		2.4719	2.0350	1.9680

# **AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

for the six month period ended 31 March 2024

# Portfolio changes

<u>Purchases</u>	Cost (£)
Coca-Cola	1,433,723
Rémy Cointreau	749,620
UnitedHealth Group	432,142
Cencora	398,469
Total purchases for the period	3,013,954
Sales	Proceeds (£)
Heineken	1,335,927
Industrivarden	1,059,305
Gilead Sciences	889,834
Microsoft	398,497
L'Oréal	185,151
Apple	150,713
Nomura Holdings	102,811
Total sales for the period	4,122,238

## **AUTHORISED STATUS**

IFSL Church House Esk Global Equity 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, which is profit on investments held, over the long term (at least five years).

#### Investment policy

The Fund is actively managed, which means the Investment Manager decides which investments to buy or sell and when.

At least 80% of the Fund will be invested directly in the shares, also known as equities, of large companies worldwide. The Investment Manager defines large companies as those with a minimum market capitalisation (the market value of a company's shares) of \$5bn at the time of initial purchase. The shares must be listed on recognised exchanges in developed markets.

No specific geographic limitations are imposed, but a maximum of 15% of the Fund will be invested in companies listed, incorporated or domiciled in the UK.

Up to 20% of the Fund may be invested in other assets, including shares of smaller companies (capitalisation less than \$5bn), bonds (which are loans typically issued by companies and governments) and money market instruments (which are short-term loans).

The Fund may hold up to 20% in cash to enable the ready settlement of liabilities, for the efficient management of the portfolio or in pursuit of the Fund's investment objective.

The Fund does not invest in derivatives.

## 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 Global 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.

# **DIRECTOR'S 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 24 May 2024

Helen Redmond Director

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# **COMPARATIVE TABLE**

A Income units Change in net assets per unit	Period to 31.03.2024	Year to 30.09.2023	Year to 30.09.2022	Year to 30.09.2021
Change in het assets per unit	91.03.2024 pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	406.82	363.04	397.81	331.85
Return before operating charges*	65.26	50.62	(28.54)	71.92
Operating charges	(2.77)	(5.19)	(5.21)	(4.84)
Return after operating charges*	62.49	45.43	(33.75)	67.08
Distributions on income units	-	(1.65)	(1.02)	(1.12)
Closing net asset value per unit	469.31	406.82	363.04	397.81
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.06
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	15.36%	12.51%	(8.48)%	20.21%
Other information				
Closing net asset value (£)	20,147,537	17,724,802	17,083,546	17,691,379
Closing number of units	4,292,989	4,356,934	4,705,743	4,447,191
Operating charges	1.30% <sup>B,C</sup>	1.31% <sup>B</sup>	1.32%	1.32%
Direct transaction costs	0.02% <sup>C</sup>	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%
Prices (pence per unit)				
Highest unit price	469.80	423.20	432.40	438.80
Lowest unit price	393.60	358.00	345.50	322.40
A Accumulation units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
Change in net assets per unit	31.03.2024	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2021
	pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	424.55	377.14	412.13	343.23
Return before operating charges*	68.29	52.99	(29.58)	73.97
Operating charges	(2.91)	(5.58)	(5.41)	(5.07)
Return after operating charges*	65.38	47.41	(34.99)	68.90
Distributions on accumulation units	(0.11)	(1.93)	(1.04)	(0.90)
Retained distributions on accumulation units	0.11	1.93	1.04	0.90
Closing net asset value per unit	489.93	424.55	377.14	412.13
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.06
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	15.40%	12.57%	(8.49)%	20.07%
Other information				
Closing net asset value (£)	956,400	536,590	34,924	46,802
Closing number of units	195,213	126,389	9,260	11,356
Operating charges	1.30% <sup>B,C</sup>	1.31% <sup>B</sup>	1.32%	1.32%
Direct transaction costs	0.02% <sup>C</sup>	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%
Prices (pence per unit)				
Highest unit price	490.40	440.00	447.90	453.80
Lowest unit price				
Lowest unit price	410.90	372.10	358.00	333.40

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> The return after charges is calculated using the underlying investments bid prices.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> On 30 November 2023, The Investment Association amended the disclosure of fund charges and costs originally issued on the 2 July 2020. Consequently, we have excluded, where relevant, charges incurred by closed-ended vehicles such as investment trusts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> These figures have been annualised.

## **COMPARATIVE TABLE**

B Income units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
Change in net assets per unit	31.03.2024	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2021
Opening net asset value per unit	<b>pence</b> 407.17	<b>pence</b> 363.34	<b>pence</b> 398.16	<b>pence</b> 332.12
Return before operating charges*	65.39	50.69	(28.61)	71.98
Operating charges	(1.97)	(3.71)	(3.75)	(3.45)
Return after operating charges*	63.42	46.98	(32.36)	68.53
Distributions on income units	(0.79)	(3.15)	(2.46)	(2.49)
Closing net asset value per unit	469.80	407.17	363.34	398.16
2				
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.06
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	15.58%	12.93%	(8.13)%	20.63%
			( /	
Other information				
Closing net asset value (£)	39,603,962	35,139,838	33,819,767	36,705,218
Closing number of units	8,429,881	8,630,233	9,308,148	9,218,753
Operating charges	0.92% <sup>B,C</sup>	0.94% <sup>B</sup>	0.94%	0.94%
Direct transaction costs	0.02% <sup>C</sup>	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%
Duines (nonce and unit)				
Prices (pence per unit) Highest unit price	471.00	424.30	433.10	439.80
•	394.10	358.30	346.20	322.70
Lowest unit price	394.10	338.30	340.20	322.70
B Accumulation units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
Change in net assets per unit	31.03.2024	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2021
		nonco		
	pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	<b>pence</b> 443.14	392.32	427.08	<b>pence</b> 353.96
Return before operating charges*	•	392.32 54.84	•	353.96 76.82
Return before operating charges* Operating charges	443.14 71.17 (2.15)	392.32 54.84 (4.02)	427.08 (30.75) (4.01)	353.96 76.82 (3.70)
Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges*	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76)	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12
Return before operating charges* Operating charges	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85)	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43)	(30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66)	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68)
Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43	(30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68
Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85)	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43)	(30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66)	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68)
Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43	(30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68
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	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08
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:	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08
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>	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14 0.05	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08
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	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16 0.05	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14 0.05	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32 0.08	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08 0.07
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 (£)	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16 0.05	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14 0.05 12.95%	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32 0.08 (8.14)%	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08 0.07
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	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16 0.05 15.58%	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14 0.05 12.95% 10,076,838 2,273,988	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32 0.08	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08 0.07
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 (£)	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16 0.05	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14 0.05 12.95%	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32 0.08 (8.14)%	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08 0.07 20.66% 8,345,563 1,954,104
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 Operating charges Direct transaction costs	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16 0.05 15.58% 11,080,580 2,163,501 0.92% <sup>B,C</sup>	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14 0.05 12.95% 10,076,838 2,273,988 0.94% <sup>B</sup>	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32 0.08 (8.14)% 8,086,915 2,061,292 0.94%	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08 0.07 20.66% 8,345,563 1,954,104 0.94%
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 Operating charges Direct transaction costs  Prices (pence per unit)	443.14 71.17 (2.15) 69.02 (0.85) 0.85 512.16 0.05 15.58% 11,080,580 2,163,501 0.92% <sup>B,C</sup> 0.02% <sup>C</sup>	392.32 54.84 (4.02) 50.82 (3.43) 3.43 443.14 0.05 12.95% 10,076,838 2,273,988 0.94% <sup>B</sup> 0.01%	427.08 (30.75) (4.01) (34.76) (2.66) 2.66 392.32 0.08 (8.14)% 8,086,915 2,061,292 0.94% 0.02%	353.96 76.82 (3.70) 73.12 (2.68) 2.68 427.08 0.07 20.66% 8,345,563 1,954,104 0.94% 0.02%
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> The return after charges is calculated using the underlying investments bid prices.

Operating charges are normally the same as the Ongoing Charges Figures (OCFs) and are the total expenses paid by each unit class in the period. Where it is considered unsuitable to use the total expenses paid by each unit class in the period to calculate the OCF because of material changes to the Fund's charges an estimate will be calculated instead. The OCFs disclosed in the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) (available on IFSL's website, www.ifslfunds.com) give an estimate of future costs.

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> On 30 November 2023, The Investment Association amended the disclosure of fund charges and costs originally issued on the 2 July 2020. Consequently, we have excluded, where relevant, charges incurred by closed-ended vehicles such as investment trusts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> These figures have been annualised.

# SYNTHETIC RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR

Lower risk		Higher risk				
<del></del>						<del></del>
Typically lower rew	/ards				Typic	cally 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 5 because its investments have experienced moderate to high volatility in the past. During the period the synthetic risk and reward indicator has remained unchanged.

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 31 March 2024

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	EUROPEAN EQUITIES (30 September 2023 - 31.86%)		
21,000	Euronext	1,566,688	2.18
6,000	Ferrari	2,078,315	2.90
1,000	Hermès International	2,050,440	2.86
	Investor 'B'	1,989,507	2.77
2,500	Lonza Group	1,193,243	1.66
	L'Oréal	1,874,511	2.61
3,750	LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton	2,689,920	3.75
17,500		1,465,859	2.04
20,000	Novonesis 'B'	930,532	1.30
16,500	Rémy Cointreau	1,320,841	1.84
7,500	Roche Holding	1,499,324	2.09
10,000	Straumann Holding	1,264,593	1.76
15,000	Swiss Re	1,524,602	2.12
	Total European Equities	21,448,375	29.88
	JAPANESE EQUITIES (30 September 2023 - 7.84%)		
	Chugai Pharmaceutical Co	603,936	0.84
·	Nomura Holdings	806,981	1.13
	Shin-Etsu Chemical Co	1,729,835	2.41
20,500		1,387,325	1.93
33,000	Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group	1,526,461	2.13
	Total Japanese Equities	6,054,538	8.44
	UNITED KINGDOM EQUITIES (30 September 2023 - 11.47%)		
	Caledonia Investments	532,187	0.74
	Everest Re Group	1,380,983	1.92
70,000		2,406,146	3.35
,	Rio Tinto	1,001,400	1.40
,	Standard Chartered	747,120	1.04
37,500	Unilever	1,487,649	2.07
	Total United Kingdom Equities	7,555,485	10.52
20,000	UNITED STATES EQUITIES (30 September 2023 - 48.32%)	2 250 442	4.07
·	Alphabet 'A' Amazon.com	3,350,143	4.67
•		2,710,197	3.78
	Ansys	1,378,727 2,062,322	1.92 2.87
15,000			
	Berkshire Hathaway 'B' Cencora	1,653,822 969,672	2.30 1.35
·		•	
4,000	Coca-Cola	1,451,951	2.02 2.87
·	Johnson & Johnson	2,057,533 1,910,845	2.66
•	Mastercard 'A'	2,766,904	3.85
·	McDonald's	1,565,787	2.18
	Microsoft	3,575,829	4.98
			1.34
	Morgan Stanley Nordson	963,971 1,519,331	2.12
21,000		2,085,347	2.90
	PACCAR		2.90 2.58
	Stryker	1,850,618 2,630,881	2.56 3.67
	T Rowe Price Group		3.6 <i>1</i> 1.87
	UnitedHealth Group	1,341,611 782,556	1.09
2,000	Total United States Equities	36,628,047	51.02
	Total Office Otates Equities	30,020,047	31.02

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 31 March 2024

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	UNQUOTED SECURITIES (30 September 2023 - 0.00%)		
130,000	Ceravision <sup>A</sup>	-	_
280	Ultra PRT <sup>A</sup>	-	_
	Total Unquoted Securities		
	Portfolio of investments	71,686,445	99.86
	Net other assets	102,034	0.14
	Total net assets	71,788,479	100.00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> These securities are unlisted and are valued at zero, based on the latest information received.

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

# PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

for the six month period ended 31 March 2024	£
Total purchases cost, including transaction charges	3,013,954
Total sales proceeds, net of transaction charges	4,122,238

# STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the six month period ended 31 March 2024

	31 March 2024		31 Marc	h 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Net capital gains		9,635,553		5,965,603
Revenue	513,565		480,933	
Expenses	(340,808)		(321,755)	
Net revenue before taxation	172,757		159,178	
Taxation	(88,453)		(53,248)	
Net revenue after taxation		84,304		105,930
Total return before distributions		9,719,857		6,071,533
Distributions		(85,007)		(105,930)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		9,634,850		5,965,603

# STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS

for the six month period ended 31 March 2024

	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
	£	£	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders	А	63,478,068		59,025,152
Amounts receivable on issue of units Amounts payable on cancellation of units	1,429,922 (2,773,103)		1,869,835 (3,066,378)	
Amounts payable on unit class conversions	28	(1,343,153)	(3)	(1,196,546)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		9,634,850		5,965,603
Retained distributions on accumulation units		18,714		30,056
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders	- =	71,788,479	A	63,824,265

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 31 March 2024

	31 March 2024 £	30 September 2023 £
Assets:	_	_
Fixed Assets:		
Investments	71,686,445	63,151,830
Current Assets:		
Debtors	226,712	189,343
Cash and bank balances	162,191	471,956
Total assets	72,075,348	63,813,129
Current Liabilities:		
Creditors:		
Bank overdrafts	136,257	-
Distributions payable on income units	66,597	261,308
Other creditors	84,015	73,753
Total liabilities	286,869	335,061
Net assets attributable to unitholders	71,788,479	63,478,068

#### NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the six month period ended 31 March 2024

## **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in compliance with UK Financial Reporting Standard 102 ("FRS 102") and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") for Authorised Funds issued by 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 30 September 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 28 March 2024.

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Investment Fund Services