# **Charity Assets Trust**

Positive absolute returns with low volatility for charities

During October the fund price rose by 2.5%. This compared with a rise of 4.7% in the FTSE All-Share Index and a fall of 1.1% in the FTSE Government All-Stocks Index (both figures total returns in sterling).

After two consecutive months of falling equity prices we saw a sharp reversal of this trend in October with energy and mining shares leading the way in this recovery. A more sanguine reassessment of Chinese growth appeared to be the core driver of the bounce. The world's central banks were also fairly active during the month; we saw both the Federal Reserve (Fed) and the Bank of England choosing not to raise rates. Mario Draghi at the European Central Bank was again successful in convincing the market he would provide further stimulus should disinflationary pressures intensify and the People's Bank of China cut its one-year benchmark interest rate to 4.35%. The familiar pattern of supportive policy from the world's central authorities has continued and so has the corresponding pattern of equity prices rises. How long will this be effective? We fear the market may start to demand more direct economic intervention to justify valuations, involving the transition from monetary to fiscal stimulus, or more likely a combination of both. For now the market appears content, and enough so to shrug off concerns about a deflationary bust emanating from China.

The fund recovered much of its losses from the previous months, especially in Japan which had been particularly impacted by the China scare (largely because of proximity and as an alternative source of Pacific liquidity). This month Japanese equities were our greatest contributor to returns (both Sony and Hitachi returned double digits) but western equities also made gains, in particular our oil and mining stocks and US technology. Names such as Texas Instruments and Microsoft were up some 15%.

Our protective investments, such as UK index-linked and options, unsurprisingly in an equity recovery were detractors. Bond yields rose in October resulting in a fall in the price of our index-linked bonds, despite a recovery in breakeven inflation rates. Despite not raising rates, the Fed have introduced some hawkish noises, signalling a move before the year-end. They may well seek to gently raise rates, but we doubt they will be able to move much in the absence of rising inflationary trends and job growth. The danger of disinflation breaking the long-running cross-subsidy of creditor to debtor biases the biggest debtors of all (the government) towards aggressive intervention. The necessity of maintaining negative real rates in an over indebted world is the core rationale for our protective holding of the long dated index-linked bonds.

In the meantime the potential inclusion of China into the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights is shortly being debated. If they are successful it could calm the nerves further of those who were fearing the worst from China's shock devaluation in August which had sparked this recent period of negative sentiment.

#### Investment objective

The fund aims to achieve low volatility and positive returns from an actively managed portfolio of different asset classes, including equities, bonds and currencies. Pervading this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation.

#### Ethical policy

The fund has an ethical screening policy which restricts investment in alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography and tobacco.

#### Performance since launch on 8 March 2012



Performance %	October 2015	Year to date	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Accumulation units	2.5	3.4	6.5	25.1	na	na
Percentage growth		%	Share price as	s at 30 Octobe	er 2015	р
30 Sep 2014 – 30 Sep 2	2015	3.9	Accumulation	I		120.42
30 Sep 2013 – 30 Sep 2	2014	3.9	Income			111.92
30 Sep 2012 – 30 Sep 2	2013	11.8				
30 Sep 2011 – 30 Sep 2	2012	na				
30 Sep 2010 – 30 Sep 2	2011	na				
Source: Ruffer LLP						

Ruffer performance is shown after deduction of all fees and management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount originally invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange.

### October 2015 Issue 44

Please note that the Charity Assets Trust is an unregulated collective investment scheme (UCIS) available only to eligible charities as defined overleaf.

# Charity Assets Trust as at 30 October 2015

#### Portfolio structure



Asset allocation %	
Non-UK index-linked 16	Japan equities
Index-linked gilts 13	• North America equities
Long dated index-linked gilts	• UK equities
• Cash 14	• Europe equities



• Cash	14	• Europe equities
• Gold and gold equities	3	• Asia ex Japan equities
• Floating-rate notes	1	• Illiquid strategies
Currency allocation	%	
Sterling	76	
• Yen	9	
• US dollar	7	
• Gold	3	
• Other	5	

5 largest of 66 equity holdings\*

5	largest	of 13	bond	hol	dings
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Stock	% of fund	Stock	% of fund	
UK Treasury index-linked 0.5% 2050	6.3	ETFS Physical Gold	2.3	
US TIPS 1.125% 2021	5.7	Dai-ichi Life Insurance	2.1	
UK Treasury index-linked 0.125% 2024	5.1	Sumitomo Mitsui Financial	1.9	
UK Treasury index-linked 1.875% 2022	5.1	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial	1.8	
US TIPS 2.125% 2019	3.1	Nomura Real Estate	1.4	
Source: Ruffer LLP		* Excludes holdings in pooled funds		

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## Fund size £63.8m

#### Fund information

%

18

8

8

4

2

4

Eligible charities are those registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and/or Inland Revenue Charities, Bootle, Merseyside (including charities established in Northern Ireland), or exempt from registration with the Charity Commission by virtue of the Charities Act 1993 (as amended).

#### **Fund Manager**

#### Christopher Querée INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Previously Director at Le Masurier, James & Chinn, now absorbed within the HSBC Group. He spent thirteen years there, with responsibility for offshore private clients



before moving to Chiswell Associates in 2001, focusing on charity fund management. He holds an MBA from Henley Management College and joined the Ruffer Group in 2004.

#### Ruffer LLP

Ruffer LLP manages investments on a discretionary basis for private clients, trusts, charities and pension funds. As at 31 October 2015, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded £18.2bn, of which charities represented £2.1bn.

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