# **Charity Assets Trust**

### Positive absolute returns with low volatility for charities

June recorded a further positive month for global equities, and a frustrating one for the portfolio, marking what has been a disappointing six month period in the context of our focus on capital preservation.

Markets have increasingly tried to consign 2022 to history. A bad dream, but no more. The prospect of a recession has led to a belief that rates might come down as quickly as they have risen. Supported by plentiful liquidity, stability has dominated. We have been more worried about the potential for instability. Suffering pain in our protective investments is not new, but we would usually hope that this would be offset by good performance from our growth assets. The path for stability described above, in our opinion, would necessitate continued strength in the real economy. We felt this would largely be predicated on continued recovery from China, supported by both stimulus and a powerful re-opening. This led us to focus our growth assets on both commodities, and equities more geared to the real economy. So far, this has not been the case, commodities have created a further headwind. Equally, whilst our equities have contributed positively, this has not been sufficient to offset the cost of protection.

Currently markets are increasingly certain policy makers will successfully be able to bring inflation back to target and will do so without creating any financial instability. The much-fabled soft landing will play out. Meanwhile, with interest rates moving higher than expected, and likely to stay high for longer, the impacts of tighter monetary policy are starting to be felt. This is already having consequences. This will inevitably, and intentionally, slow the economy. Despite this obvious risk, markets remain certain the risks will be contained. Investors are now willing to buy into equities (and indeed corporate credit) despite the fact they now offer a lower return (and higher risk) than cash! We are increasingly taking the other side of this perceived certainty.

The protections in the portfolio are threefold: structural protection against a new regime which is likely to be characterised by rising and more volatile levels of inflation; shorter-term (and powerful) protection against the potential financial instability caused by tighter liquidity and higher interest rates; and protection against the likely recession that will follow. For the moment, investors seem to be growing in confidence that policy makers will be able to successfully navigate the narrow tightrope of stability. Tightening policy sufficiently to maintain monetary (or inflation) stability, without creating financial instability. We are less convinced. Taking a cautious view can be painful, but history tells us that not long after these periods the risks emerge, leading to significant drawdowns in markets.

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.



C class June 2023 Issue 136

#### Investment objective

The fund will follow an 'absolute return' investment strategy. This means the Manager will not endeavour to track or 'outperform' a specific benchmark or stock market index, but instead seek to generate consistent positive returns regardless of the prevailing market conditions. The Manager expresses its absolute return approach through two principal investment objectives for the fund: 1) preservation of capital, which the Manager defines as not losing money on a rolling 12 month basis and 2) delivering consistent positive returns (through a combination of capital and income) greater than the return on cash (as defined by the Bank of England Bank Rate).

#### Responsible Investment Policy

The fund has strict restrictions on investment in alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography, predatory lending, tobacco, oil sands and thermal coal. It also follows a proactive voting and engagement approach with companies held within the fund. The fund is monitored against UN Global Compact principles, MSCI's ESG Metrics and the managers also monitor the fund's carbon metrics.

#### Performance since launch on 8 March 2012



C Accumulation units	Performance %
June 2023	-1.2
Year to date	-7.2
1 year	-1.8
3 years	18.0
5 years	26.0

onic price as at 00 banc 2020	P	
C Accumulation	168.04	
C Income	137.70	

Unit price as at 30 June 2023

12 month performance to June %	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Charity Assets Trust C acc	-1.8	8.7	15.6	4.0	-1.8
FTSE All-Share TR	0.6	-13.0	21.5	1.6	7.9
FTSE Govt All-Stocks TR	4.9	11.2	-6.2	-13.6	-14.5

Source: Ruffer LLP, FTSE International

# Charity Assets Trust as at 30 Jun 2023

# Asset allocation Currency allocation

Asset allocation	%
Short-dated bonds	22.9
<ul> <li>Index-linked gilts</li> </ul>	16.8
<ul> <li>Illiquid strategies and options</li> </ul>	13.6
<ul> <li>Long-dated index-linked gilts</li> </ul>	8.3
<ul> <li>Non-UK index-linked</li> </ul>	8.0
Cash	6.9
<ul> <li>Gold exposure and gold equities</li> </ul>	5.4
UK equities	7.8
North America equities	2.7
<ul> <li>Commodity exposure</li> </ul>	2.7
Asia ex-Japan equities	2.2
<ul> <li>Europe equities</li> </ul>	1.9
Japan equities	0.4
Other equities	0.3
Currency allocation	%
Sterling	56.2
• Yen	18.1
US dollar	11.8
Australian dollar	8.0
• Euro	0.2
• Other	5.7

## 10 largest equity holdings\*

Stock	% of fund
BP	4.5
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co	0.8
Alibaba Group Holding	0.7
Swire Pacific	0.5
Harmony Energy	0.5
Agnico Eagle Mines	0.4
Gresham House Energy Storage Fund	0.4
PRS REIT plc	0.4
Schroder BSC Social Impact Trust	0.4
Royal Vopak	0.3

#### 5 largest bond holdings

Stock	% of fund
UK Treasury index-linked 2.5% 2024	8.5
UK Treasury index-linked 0.125% 2026	4.7
Japanese govt bonds 0.005% 1 May 2024	4.5
Japanese govt bonds 0.005% 1 Apr 2024	4.5
Japanese govt bonds 0.005% 1 Jun 2024	4.3
*Excludes holdings in Ruffer funds Source: Ruffer LLP.	

Pie chart totals may not equal 100 due to rounding.

The views expressed in this report are not intended as an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any investment or financial instrument. The views reflect the views of Ruffer LLP at the date of this document and, whilst the opinions stated are honestly held, they are not guarantees and should not be relied upon and may be subject to change without notice. The information contained in this document does not constitute investment advice and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision. References to specific securities are included for the purposes of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell these securities. Ruffer LLP has not considered the suitability of this fund against any specific investor's needs and/or risk tolerance. If you are in any doubt, please speak to your financial adviser. The fund data displayed is designed only to provide summary information and the report does not explain the risks involved in investing in the fund. Any decision to invest must be based solely on the information contained in the Scheme Particulars, Key Information Document and the latest report and accounts. The Charity Assets Trust is an unregulated collective investment scheme (UCIS) available only to eligible charities as defined overleaf.

FTSE® is a trade mark of the London Stock Exchange Group companies and is used by FTSE International Limited under licence. All rights in the FTSE indices and/or FTSE ratings vest in FTSE and/or its licensors. Neither FTSE nor its licensors accept any liability for any errors or omissions in the FTSE indices and/or FTSE ratings or underlying data and no party may rely on any FTSE indices, ratings and/or underlying data contained in this communication. No further distribution of FTSE Data is permitted without FTSE's express written consent. FTSE does not promote, sponsor or endorse the content of this communication. This financial promotion is issued by Ruffer LLP, 80 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL Ruffer LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. ® Ruffer LLP 2023

#### Fund size £519m

#### **Fund information**

		%
Ongoing Ch	arges Figure	1.18
Annual mana	gement charge	1.0 + VAT
Maximum ini	tial charge	1.0
Yield		1.77
Minimum inv	estment	£500
Ex dividend	dates	15 January, 15 April, 15 July, 15 October
Pay dates	Sep	15 March, 15 June, 15 otember, 15 December
Dealing W		Wednesday where this is a business day iness day of the month
Cut off		Inesday (where this is a the last business day of the month
Unit classes	Acc	cumulation and income
ISIN	Accumulation GB00B740TC99	Income GB00B7F77M57
SEDOL	B740TC9	B7F77M5
Manager and	d investment adviser	Ruffer AIFM Limited
Trustee	BNY Mellon Fund	d & Depositary (UK) Ltd
Custodian	Bank of N	lew York Mellon SA/NV
Administrato	r Ba	nk of New York Mellon (International) Limited
Auditors		Ernst & Young UK LLP
Legal advise	rs Eversheds Suther	land (International) LLP
Structure		ment Fund established The Charities Act 1993

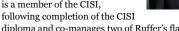
Eligible charities are those registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and/or Inland Revenue Charities, Bootle, Merseyside (including charities established in Northern Ireland), or exempt from registration with the Charity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

#### **Fund Managers**

#### Jos North

#### INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Joined Ruffer in 2012 and now leads Ruffer's UK institutional business, including UK defined benefit, defined contribution and local government pension schemes, and UK charities. He is a member of the CISI, following completion of the CIS



diploma and co-manages two of Ruffer's flagship funds.



#### INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Joined Ruffer in 2013 and leads Ruffer's US team and comanages two of Ruffer's flagship funds. Previous roles included oil and gas companies and the fund team at Ingenious Investments. She is a CFA charterholder.



#### Ajay Johal

#### INVESTMENT DIRECTOR

Joined Ruffer in 2014 from Barclays Wealth. In 2019, he worked as an equity analyst in Ruffer's Hong Kong office, then joined the charities team in London as an Investment Manager. He holds a degree in history and sociology from the



University of Warwick and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Securities & Investment.

#### Ruffer LLP

Ruffer LLP manages investments on a discretionary basis for private clients, trusts, charities and pension funds. As at 31 May 2023, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded £25.2bn.

#### Dealing line

0344 892 0906

#### **Enquiries**

Ruffer LLP 80 Victoria Street London SW1E 5JL Ajay Johal ajohal@ruffer.co.uk +44 (0)20 7963 8040

ruffer.co.uk