



# MULTI-ASSET FUND FOR CHARITIES

#### **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

The Epworth Multi-Asset Fund is an all-in-one responsible investment fund solution for charities. It seeks to deliver an attractive level of income and long-term capital growth. The fund is designed for charities of all sizes and invests both directly and indirectly in a balanced portfolio of ethically screened equities, bonds, property, cash, and alternative assets. Our investment approach is designed to maximise the value we deliver to our clients, focusing on financial returns in collaboration with a positive influence on society.

#### **ETHICAL INVESTING**

Christian ethics are a first principle matter for Epworth. We aim to ensure that our investment decisions are consistent with the Christian faith. As such, all investments chosen by the fund must adhere to Epworth's established ethical pillars. To qualify for inclusion, each asset undergoes a meticulous due diligence process conducted by Epworth's experienced investment team and subsequently presented to the Asset Allocation Committee for evaluation. Continuous, rigorous monitoring of investments is conducted by the Epworth team. This involves regular interactions with the management of respective companies and third-party funds. The Responsible Investment Committee at Epworth is actively consulted in instances where specific stewardship concerns arise.

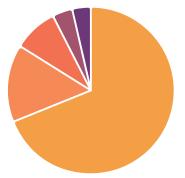
#### **FUND SUMMARY**

Fund Tune	Charity Authorised
Fund Type	Investment Fund (CAIF)
Inception Date	11 June 2019
Fund Size (30 June 2024)	£55.9m
Valuation & Dealing Dates	Daily
Minimum Investment	£1,000
ISIN	GB00BJBT3T83 (Income) GB00BJBT3V06 (Accumulation)
Management Fee	0.60%
Third Party Investment Trust	
Ongoing Charges Figure	0.19%
Other Costs	0.33%
Ongoing Charges Figure	
(2023 Average)	1.12%
Dilution Levy	0.25%
Report Frequency	Quarterly
Historic Yield per Annum	
(Estimated to 30 June 2024)	2.78%

# PERFORMANCE

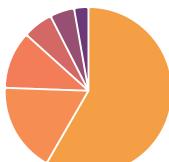
To 30 June 2024		1 year %	3 years % p.a.	Since 01.08.19 % p.a.
Fund		10.2	2.7	4.5
12 Months to 30 June	2024 %	2023 %	2022 %	<b>2021</b> %
Fund	10.2	1.7	-3.2	18.3

# **ASSET ALLOCATION**



Equity	69.1%
Fixed Income	14.8%
Alternatives	8.6%
Cash	3.9%
Property	3.6%

#### SPREAD OF EQUITY INVESTMENTS



North America	58.6%
Europe ex UK	17.2%
UK	11.1%
Japan	5.9%
Emerging Markets	4.6%
Asia Pacific	
ex Japan	2.7%

## COMMENTARY

The fund delivered its third consecutive quarter of positive returns, as most asset classes delivered modest growth in a more stable environment than has been the case for much of the last four years. After a pause in April, the technology behemoths resumed equity market leadership with further extraordinary gains, reflecting the undimmed enthusiasm for the future of artificial intelligence applications. The positive headline returns mask an ongoing narrow market leadership, with the wider equity market beyond 'AI stocks' delivering negligible returns in the first half of 2024.

For investors, this has meant outsized returns for those most heavily concentrated in this theme. At Epworth, we have sought to ensure modest but not excessive exposure to the best AI ideas, conscious of the need for diversification to protect investors when enthusiasm for the theme inevitably tips too far. Beyond equities, the fund enjoyed positive contributions from some of its private equity and infrastructure exposures, as well as its holdings in corporate bonds.

Following helpful takeover activity in the UK stock market, the fund took profits in this exposure. As well as recycling some of the capital into certain conviction stocks that looked to present good value opportunities, the fund also initiated its first investment in EU carbon allowances. The EU carbon market launched in 2008 and has demonstrated itself as a proven solution for cutting industrial emissions through forcing polluters to pay for their emissions in a regulated market. Physical investment in this market not only accelerates the decarbonisation process by reducing the supply of permits available to polluters, but also gains exposure to a market with very little correlation to traditional assets, meaning significant diversification of portfolio risks. In addition, the price of carbon is forecast to rise significantly over the next 5 years, as fewer permits are issued and more sectors come under the scope of the scheme.

#### **ABOUT THE MANAGER**

Matthew Jones, CFA joined Epworth in 2014 with a First-Class Economics Degree. He has since become a CFA Institute charterholder, as well as achieving the CFA

Institute's Certificate in ESG Investing and the Investment Management Certif icate. Matt became lead manager of the Multi-Asset Fund in 2022 and is a member of Epworth's Asset Allocation Committee.



**MATTHEW JONES** Fund Manager

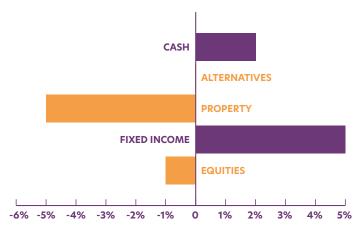
# **TOP 10 HOLDINGS**

AS	AT 30 JUNE 2024 WEIG	CHTING (%)
1	Epworth Global Equity Fund	33.0
2	Vanguard UK Government Bond ETF	3.9
3	Rathbone Greenbank Global Sustainable Bond Fund	3.7
4	Property Income Trust for Charities Fund	3.6
5	Epworth UK Equity Fund	3.5
6	Epworth Climate Stewardship Fund	3.5
7	Rathbone Ethical Bond Fund	2.8
8	Vanguard USD Treasury Bond UCITS ETF	2.5
9	SparkChange Physical Carbon ETC	2.1
10	Columbia Threadneedle UK Social Bond Fund	2.0

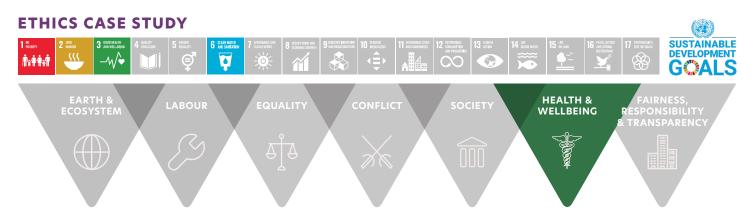
# **TOP 10 EQUITY HOLDINGS**

AS	AT 30 JUNE 2024	WEIGHTING (%)
1	Microsoft	2.1
2	Apple Inc	2.0
3	Nvidia	1.7
4	Texas Instruments	1.6
5	Zebra Technologies	1.5
6	VAT Group	1.5
7	Toro	1.5
8	Mettler Toledo International	1.5
9	Misumi	1.5
10	Lennox International	1.5

#### TACTICAL ASSET VIEWS



Epworth's short term asset allocation deviations against the fund's long-term strategy at 30 June 2024. These views are reviewed regularly by Epworth's in-house asset allocation committee.



#### BIOGAIA

BioGaia is a global leader in the research and development of probiotics, based out of Sweden. The aim of probiotics is to cultivate a healthy culture of microorganisms (healthy bacteria) within the body. BioGaia focuses specifically on gut, oral and bone health in both infants and adults under the L.reuteri bacteria strain.

BioGaia has been a conviction stock in the Epworth Global Equity Fund since 2019, and since then the stock price has appreciated over 60% (as of March 2024), representing a significant positive return for Epworth. It was added due to the growth characteristics it displays through its marketleading position in a sector with strong growth prospects as more and more people, globally, become conscious of their health and improving their standard of life. Inherently, investing in BioGaia also directly aligns with the Health & Wellbeing investment pillar at Epworth. Alongside its strong performance, BioGaia is also a company with an equally strong moral compass and has driven sustainability in the sector. Some of the projects they have underway include goals such as using 100% recycled or biodegradable packaging by 2030 – something no-one else is doing in the sector due to the complexities of shipping medical products. The company is also participating in a worldwide initiative to prevent the resistance of antibiotics; and engaging in charitable work to provide proper healthcare for vulnerable women and children in the Philippines.

Recent engagement with the CEO of BioGaia, made it clear to Epworth that BioGaia is committed to improving public health and reducing the environmental impact of their activities. The management of BioGaia are strong believers that improving health requires a change at both a personal and societal level, to benefit people, society and the environment. This is reflected by the appointment of a dedicated sustainability officer and team in 2022.

#### **EQUITY PORTFOLIO SAVINGS**

The equity portion of the portfolio offers the following savings.



CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS



#### Equivalent to 2,120 PASSENGER ROUNDTRIPS NEW YORK TO LONDON

Data coverage is 99.8% on this portfolio

Equivalent to 17,627 LIGHT BULBS PER YEAR

Data coverage is 99.8% on this portfolio

ENERGY

USAGE

33,314

**GIGAJOULES** 



# HOUSEHOLD'S CONSUMPTION PER MONTH

Data coverage is 99.7% on this portfolio

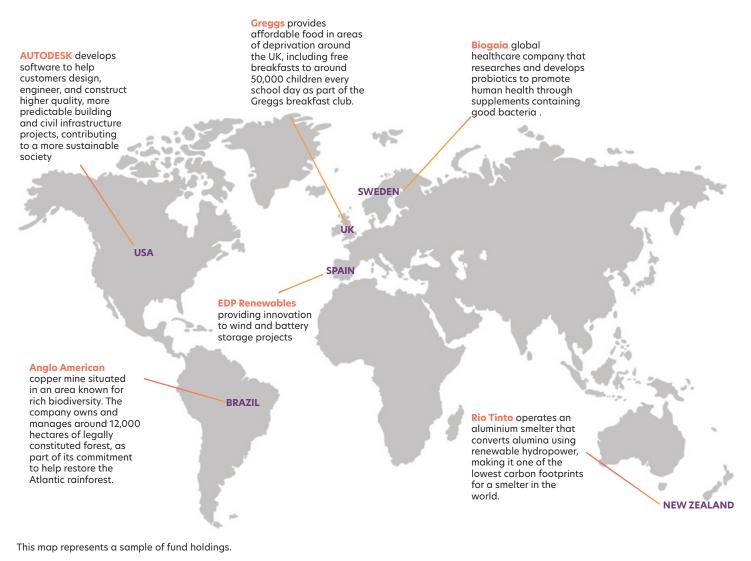
Reference data from Clarity AI as at Q2 2024

#### VOTING ENGAGEMENT



During 2023 Epworth voted in **292 OF 293 VOTING OPPORTUNITIES** Across equity holdings

# SMALL FIRM, GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



#### **CROWN FUND RATING**

An FE fundinfo Crown Fund Rating of four is awarded only to the top 15% of all funds. Recognising excellent achievement in three key measurement areas, a four FE fundinfo Crown fund is a significant accolade, representing a fund's demonstrable ability to outperform over the medium to long term, whilst controlling risk effectively.

FE fundinfo Crown Fund Ratings do not constitute investment advice offered by FE fundinfo and should not be used as the sole basis for making any investment decision. All rights reserved.

#### NEXT STEPS

Please visit our website **epworthim.com** 

Or contact **SIMON WOOLNOUGH** Head of Business Development s.woolnough@epworthim.com



#### **RISK WARNING**

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