### **BAILLIE GIFFORD**

### Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited)

for the six months ended 31 March 2020





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 $<sup>^*</sup>$ Collectively these comprise the Authorised Corporate Director's Report as required by the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ("COLL").

### About the Company

Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC (Investment Company with Variable Capital) ('the Company') is an umbrella UK Open-Ended Investment Company ('OEIC') under regulation 14 (Authorisation) of the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001. An OEIC is a collective investment vehicle in which your funds are pooled with those of other investors and spread across a portfolio of investments, thus reducing risk.

At 31 March 2020 the Company offered five sub-funds and the range may be varied in the future. Each sub-fund is valued on a daily basis. The sub-funds are subject to different charging structures and subscription limits. All shares are single priced. Details of the sub-funds and the share classes are contained in the Prospectus, along with details of the switching facility available between sub-funds. The Prospectus was last revised on 31 March 2020 and the Instrument of Incorporation was last revised on 1 November 2019. Copies of the Prospectus or Instrument of Incorporation can be obtained from Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, the Authorised Corporate Director ('ACD') by contacting Client Relations.

The Company is registered in Great Britain, registered number IC 402, and the address of its Head Office is Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN. The operation of the Company is governed by the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ('COLL') (the 'Regulations'), its Instrument of Incorporation and its Prospectus.

The Company's shareholders are not liable for its debts beyond the amount subscribed. Each sub-fund is classed as a UCITS retail scheme under COLL.

Any comments expressed in this report should not be taken as a recommendation or advice

#### Assessment of value for the Funds

Under COLL 6.6.20R (1), Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, the ACD of the Company, must conduct an assessment at least annually for each UK authorised sub-fund it manages, of whether the payments out of the sub-funds set out in the prospectus are justified in the context of the overall value delivered to shareholders. This assessment of value must, as a minimum, consider seven criteria, namely: quality of service, performance, authorised fund manager costs, economies of scale, comparable market

rates, comparable services and classes of shares. We will issue the statement of value in a separate composite report, performing the assessment across our full range of UK authorised sub-funds. We have chosen a reference date of 31 March and will publish a composite report by 31 July each year which will be available on our website at www.bailliegifford.com. The first composite report will be available on 31 July 2020.

#### **Sub-fund Cross-holdings Table**

At 31 March 2020 none of the shares in the sub-funds were held by any other sub-funds of the Company.

#### Termination of Baillie Gifford Active Gilt Investment Fund, Baillie Gifford Active Index-Linked Gilt Investment Fund and Baillie Gifford Active Long Gilt Investment Fund

After carrying out a review of the future prospects for the Baillie Gifford Active Gilt Investment Fund, Baillie Gifford Active Index-Linked Gilt Investment Fund and Baillie Gifford Active Long Gilt Investment Fund the ACD took the decision to terminate the funds. Termination commenced on 31 March 2020 at which point all remaining shares in the Funds were redeemed and new subscriptions ceased.

### Changes to the distribution policy of all the Sub-Funds

With effect from 1 October 2019, for distribution purposes all permitted expenses of all the Funds are allocated to capital. This change increases the income available to be distributed compared to that available if expenses were allocated to income. However, allocating all permitted expenses to capital will constrain capital growth or result in capital erosion of the Funds.

### About the Company cont.

#### **Authorised Corporate Director**

Baillie Gifford & Co Limited (Authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register No. 119179) Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN

Telephone: 0800 917 2113

Fax: 0131 275 3955

#### **Directors of the ACD**

Executive

MJC Wylie (Chairman)

E Delaney C M Fraser

D S McGowan

S Swindells (resigned - 8 November 2019)

A J Telfer

Independent Non-Executive

D R Buckley K B M Bolsover

#### **Investment Adviser**

Baillie Gifford & Co (Authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register No. 142597) Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN

#### **Depositary**

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited (formerly National Westminster Bank Plc) (Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, Financial Services Register No. 794152)
Trustee & Depositary Services,
Drummond House,
1 Redheughs Avenue,
Edinburgh EH12 9RH

#### Registrar

Baillie Gifford & Co Limited (Authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register No. 119179) Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN

#### **Independent Auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EX

Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, the Authorised Corporate Director of the OEIC, is wholly owned by Baillie Gifford & Co. We only provide information about our products and do not provide investment advice.

# Statement of Authorised Corporate Directors' Responsibilities

The Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ('COLL') requires the Authorised Corporate Director to prepare financial statements for each interim and annual accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company and of its revenue and expenditure and of its net gains and losses on the property of the Company for the period. In preparing the financial statements the Authorised Corporate Director is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice relating to the Financial Statements of UK Authorised Funds issued in 2014:
- follow generally accepted accounting principles and applicable accounting standards;
- keep proper accounting records which enable it to demonstrate that the financial statements as prepared comply with the above requirements;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in operation; and
- take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities.

The Authorised Corporate Director is responsible for the management of the Company in accordance with the Instrument of Incorporation, the Prospectus and the Regulations.

The Interim Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Authorised Corporate Director and signed on its behalf by:

M J C Wylie, Chairman C M Fraser, Director Baillie Gifford & Co Limited 29 May 2020

### **BAILLIE GIFFORD**

### Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Bond Fund

### a sub-fund of Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited) for the six months ended 31 March 2020





## Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Bond Fund

#### **Investment Objective**

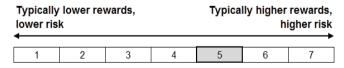
The Fund aims to outperform (after deduction of costs) the J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index unhedged in sterling by 0.6% per annum over rolling three-year periods.

#### **Investment Policy**

The Fund will invest at least 80% in bonds issued by emerging market issuers or in emerging market currencies. Emerging markets will be determined by the investment manager at its discretion. The Fund may also invest in other bonds including developed market bonds. Currency forwards and derivatives, which are types of financial contracts, are used for both investment purposes and in the management of risk. The Fund will be exposed to foreign currencies. The Fund will be actively managed and is not constrained by the index.

#### Risk and Reward Profile

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the Risk and Reward Indicator.



Please note that even the lowest risk class can lose you money and that extreme adverse market circumstances can mean you suffer severe losses in all cases.

The Fund is classified in the category above because it invests in government bonds issued by emerging market borrowers which generally provide higher rewards and higher risks than other investments such as UK government bonds and cash.

The indicator does not take into account the following relevant material risks:

Investment markets can go down as well as up and market conditions can change rapidly. The value of an investment in the Fund, and any income from it, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested.

The Fund has exposure to foreign currencies and changes in the rates of exchange will cause the value of any investment, and income from it, to fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested.

Custody of assets, particularly in emerging markets, involves a risk of loss if the custodian becomes insolvent or breaches duties of care.

Bonds issued by companies and governments may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates, expectations of inflation and a decline in the creditworthiness of the bond issuer. The issuers of bonds in which the Fund invests, particularly in emerging markets, may not be able to pay the bond income as promised or could fail to repay the capital amount.

The Fund invests in emerging markets where difficulties in trading could arise, resulting in a negative impact on the value of your investment. The Fund's investment in frontier markets may increase this risk.

Derivatives may be used to obtain, increase or reduce exposure to assets and may result in the Fund being leveraged. This may result in greater movements (down or up) in the price of shares in the Fund. It is not our intention that the use of derivatives will significantly alter the overall risk profile of the Fund.

The process for the UK to exit the European Union introduces elements of political uncertainty and may have practical consequences for the Fund. Developments will be closely monitored.

Infectious viruses may pose significant threats to human health and may be highly disruptive to global economies and markets. The economic and market disruptions caused by infectious viruses could impact the value of the investments of the Fund and the distributions paid by the Fund to shareholders.

## Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Bond Fund cont.

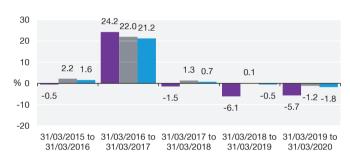
Further details of the risks associated with investing in the Fund can be found in the Prospectus which is available by contacting Client Relations or visiting our website.

#### Fees Charged to Capital

For distribution purposes, all expenses of the Fund are allocated to capital. This will reduce the capital value of the Fund.

### Investment Report

#### Past Performance



- ■Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Bond Fund B Income Shares¹
- ■JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index unhedged + 0.6%²
- JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index unhedged<sup>2</sup>

The performance figures shown in this graph compares Class B Income Shares against the benchmark index. Performance figures reflect the ACD's annual fee of 0.4% (until 1 July 2018 the ACD's annual fee on Class B Shares was 0.6%), but exclude any initial charge paid. Performance figures for the other share classes in issue can be obtained by contacting Client Relations. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

For the six months to 31 March 2020 the return on B Income Shares was  $-12.9\%^3$ , compared to the return on the J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index unhedged in sterling (the 'Index') of  $-11.4\%^2$  and the Fund's target (the 'target return') of the Index +0.6% of  $-11.1\%^2$ . The investment objective of the Fund is to outperform the Index by 0.6% per annum over rolling three-year periods. As such, we believe that shorter-term performance measurements are of limited relevance in assessing investment ability. The annualised three-year return on B Income Shares was  $-3.5\%^3$  compared to the return on the Index of  $-0.5\%^2$  and the target return of  $0.1\%^2$ .

Emerging market bonds were materially affected by the outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19) and its impact on economic growth, particularly towards the end of the period. The main impact has been seen in currency markets, with emerging markets falling heavily relative to sterling. As the crisis took hold it was typically the most liquid emerging markets which suffered as investors looked to disinvest as quickly as possible. This hurt some higher quality positions such as the Fund's holding in Mexican bonds. As things developed,

however, there has was a marked divergence in returns between higher quality countries, and those with lower ratings which have suffered most. The Fund's holding in Ukrainian bonds was by far the largest detractor. It was a small position in the Fund but bond prices fell dramatically, exacerbated by a lack of liquidity. The falling oil price also impacted on other positions with Russian rouble and Norwegian krone depreciating, for example. Underweight positioning in US dollars also detracted from performance over this short period.

Even before the crisis truly took hold we had become more nervous on the outlook for growth in emerging markets and had begun to position the Fund in a more defensive fashion. We moved from an overweight in Brazilian real to an underweight, we increased the underweight in Turkish lira, and we opened a new underweight in Chilean peso. In recent months, US dollar moved from being the largest underweight to the largest overweight in the Fund. The Fund remains positioned for emerging market bond yields to fall, although we reduced exposure to some less liquid bonds such as Egypt. We also closed an overweight position in Malaysian bonds due to the pressure from low oil prices.

<sup>1</sup>Source: FE, 10am dealing prices, income reinvested, after charges. <sup>2</sup>Source: FE and relevant underlying index provider, total return. The target return outperformance is compound daily therefore the Index return plus the outperformance will not equal the target return. Please see Disclaimer on page 96. <sup>3</sup>Source: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, closing mid prices, income reinvested, after charges. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

### Investment Report cont.

We see value in continuing to hold overweight bond positions in select countries such as Russia, Thailand, China, Indonesia and Ukraine – in the short term some of these have hurt performance but we believe this to be temporary, and we remain focused on the longer-term investment case.

Baillie Gifford & Co, 29 April 2020

#### Coronavirus update

It is important during times of extreme market volatility to remember that investing is a long-term activity. History indicates that acting hastily in the midst of a crisis is typically unhelpful, and we would encourage all investors to step back and maintain perspective. When we invest on behalf of clients, it is with a three-year view of the opportunities that a company has to grow. Though markets have been very volatile for weeks, the types of companies we generally favour – those with growing opportunities, competitive advantages and strong balance sheets – are not only well placed to survive short-term pressures, but to thrive when the current crisis is over. We have therefore made few changes to client portfolios. Most of our thinking now has turned to the likely acceleration of trends that were already in place pre-crisis, and the associated long-term investment opportunities. Many of the companies in which we invest for clients have shown their focus on social responsibility by becoming involved in efforts to find treatments for Covid-19, producing much-needed medical supplies, and supporting their own staff rather than focusing relentlessly on short-term profitability. We have encouraged them to do so in the belief that those which act responsibly now will see the benefit in happier times.

### Principal Bond Holdings as at 31 March 2020

| Investment                         | Percentage of |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
|                                    | total Fund    |  |  |  |
| Thailand 1.25% IL 12/03/2028       | 6.33          |  |  |  |
| Poland 2.75% IL 25/08/2023         | 3.54          |  |  |  |
| Indonesia 8.375% 15/03/2024        | 3.31          |  |  |  |
| Dominican Republic 8.9% 15/02/2023 | 3.25          |  |  |  |
| Russia 6.5% 28/02/2024             | 3.07          |  |  |  |
| Indonesia 8.375% 15/03/2034        | 2.95          |  |  |  |
| Turkey 2.9% IL 07/07/2027          | 2.64          |  |  |  |
| South Africa 10.5% 21/12/2026      | 2.60          |  |  |  |
| Brazil 10% 01/01/2023              | 2.50          |  |  |  |
| Turkey 3% IL 02/08/2023            | 2.45          |  |  |  |

### Material Portfolio Changes for the six months ended 31 March 2020

| Largest Purchases              | Cost<br>£'000 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
|                                |               |
| South Africa 10.5% 21/12/2026  | 14,928        |
| Turkey 2.9% IL 07/07/2027      | 14,726        |
| Turkey 3% IL 02/08/2023        | 14,495        |
| China 3.13% 21/11/2029         | 14,401        |
| Poland 2.5% 25/01/2023         | 14,054        |
| Uruguay 4.375% IL 15/12/2028   | 10,770        |
| Malaysia 3.478% 14/06/2024     | 10,546        |
| Uruguay 8.5% 15/03/2028        | 10,391        |
| Ecuador 10.75% 28/03/2022      | 10,354        |
| Ukraine 9.79% 26/05/2027 (GDN) | 9,272         |

| Largest Sales                | Proceeds £'000 |
|------------------------------|----------------|
|                              | 22 -21         |
| US TII 0.625% IL 15/01/2024  | 28,724         |
| Poland 2.75% IL 25/08/2023   | 20,776         |
| China 3.13% 21/11/2029       | 16,075         |
| Brazil 0% 01/01/2022         | 11,891         |
| Mexico 8% 07/12/2023         | 10,251         |
| Uruguay 8.5% 15/03/2028      | 9,756          |
| Egypt 17.18% 09/05/2027      | 9,319          |
| Brazil 10% 01/01/2021        | 8,914          |
| Ecuador 10.75% 28/03/2022    | 8,605          |
| South Africa 6.5% 28/02/2041 | 8,481          |

The largest purchases and sales of bonds have been shown.

### Portfolio Statement as at 31 March 2020

| Stock description               | Holding        | Market      | % of total |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
|                                 |                | value £'000 | net assets |
|                                 |                |             |            |
| Fixed Income - 93.69% (95.87%)  |                |             |            |
| Brazil - 4.14% (7.78%)          |                |             |            |
| Brazil 10% 01/01/2023           | 64,700         | 10,901      | 2.50       |
| Brazil 10% 01/01/2025           | 29,850         | 4,896       | 1.12       |
| Brazil CPI Linked 6% 15/05/2045 | 3,670          | 2,281       | 0.52       |
| Chile - 2.69% (2.97%)           |                |             |            |
| Chile 4.5% 01/03/2026           | 5,120,000,000  | 5,294       | 1.21       |
| Chile 4.7% 01/09/2030 (144A)    | 1,585,000,000  | 1,644       | 0.38       |
| Chile 5% 01/03/2035             | 2,540,000,000  | 2,675       | 0.61       |
| Chile 6% 01/01/2043             | 1,785,000,000  | 2,151       | 0.49       |
| China - 0.00% (0.00%)           |                |             |            |
| China 3.25% 06/06/2026          | 100,000        | 12          | 0.00       |
| Colombia - 0.75% (3.05%)        |                |             |            |
| Colombia 6% 28/04/2028          | 6,425,000,000  | 1,178       | 0.27       |
| Colombia 7.5% 26/08/2026        | 10,068,500,000 | 2,085       | 0.48       |
| Czech Republic - 4.59% (0.36%)  |                |             |            |
| Czech Republic 0.95% 15/05/2030 | 147,330,000    | 4,527       | 1.03       |
| Czech Republic 1% 26/06/2026    | 142,670,000    | 4,530       | 1.04       |
| Czech Republic 2.5% 25/08/2028  | 115,000,000    | 4,041       | 0.92       |
| Czech Republic 5.7% 25/05/2024  | 181,670,000    | 6,975       | 1.60       |
| Egypt - 2.04% (2.72%)           |                |             |            |
| Egypt 15.9% 09/09/2024          | 123,410,000    | 6,719       | 1.54       |
| Egypt 4.55% 20/11/2023 (USD)    | 3,040,000      | 2,181       | 0.50       |
| Hungary - 3.72% (2.43%)         |                |             |            |
| Hungary 2.5% 24/10/2024         | 2,144,000,000  | 5,493       | 1.26       |
| Hungary 2.75% 22/12/2026        | 2,097,720,000  | 5,418       | 1.24       |
| Hungary 3% 21/08/2030           | 2,135,510,000  | 5,349       | 1.22       |

| Stock description                    | Holding         | Market      | % of tota  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
|                                      |                 | value £'000 | net assets |
|                                      |                 |             |            |
| Indonesia - 10.29% (12.74%)          |                 |             |            |
| Indonesia 10.5% 15/08/2030           | 49,198,000,000  | 2,802       | 0.64       |
| Indonesia 6.125% 15/05/2028          | 104,790,000,000 | 4,575       | 1.05       |
| Indonesia 7.5% 15/08/2032            | 45,919,000,000  | 2,075       | 0.48       |
| Indonesia 8.375% 15/03/2024          | 282,635,000,000 | 14,455      | 3.31       |
| Indonesia 8.375% 15/03/2034          | 260,720,000,000 | 12,888      | 2.95       |
| Indonesia 8.375% 15/04/2039          | 56,395,000,000  | 2,751       | 0.63       |
| Indonesia 9% 15/03/2029              | 103,610,000,000 | 5,388       | 1.23       |
| Malaysia - 1.78% (0.26%)             |                 |             |            |
| Malaysia 3.478% 14/06/2024           | 40,920,000      | 7,758       | 1.78       |
| Mexico - 5.94% (10.49%)              |                 |             |            |
| Mexico 4.5% IL 04/12/2025            | 430,000         | 10,003      | 2.29       |
| Mexico 7.75% 23/11/2034              | 1,907,100       | 6,685       | 1.53       |
| Mexico 7.75% 29/05/2031              | 640,000         | 2,255       | 0.51       |
| Petroleos Mexicanos 7.47% 12/11/2026 | 2,700,374       | 7,023       | 1.61       |
| Nigeria - 0.00% (1.12%)              |                 |             |            |
| Other Emerging - 8.45% (4.97%)       |                 |             |            |
| Dominican Republic 8.9% 15/02/2023   | 1,020,050,000   | 14,201      | 3.25       |
| Qatar 4% 14/03/2029 (USD)            | 4,435,000       | 3,833       | 0.88       |
| Ukraine 15.84% 26/02/2025 (GDN)      | 223,065,000     | 5,608       | 1.28       |
| Ukraine 17% 11/05/2022 (GDN)         | 233,110,000     | 6,370       | 1.46       |
| Ukraine 7.75% 01/09/2023 (USD)       | 3,055,000       | 2,319       | 0.53       |
| Ukraine 9.79% 26/05/2027 (GDN)       | 274,560,000     | 4,606       | 1.05       |
| Peru - 5.43% (5.47%)                 |                 |             |            |
| Peru 5.35% 12/08/2040                | 13,430          | 3,017       | 0.69       |
| Peru 6.15% 12/08/2032                | 21,515          | 5,402       | 1.24       |
| Peru 6.35% 12/08/2028                | 18,830          | 4,909       | 1.13       |
| Peru 6.9% 12/08/2037                 | 22,382          | 6,000       | 1.37       |
| Peru 6.95% 12/08/2031                | 16,401          | 4,383       | 1.00       |

| Stock description                  | Holding        | Market      | % of total |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
|                                    |                | value £'000 | net assets |
|                                    |                |             |            |
| Poland - 10.10% (8.70%)            |                |             |            |
| Poland 2.5% 25/01/2023             | 52,192,000     | 10,572      | 2.42       |
| Poland 2.5% 25/07/2026             | 23,645,000     | 4,888       | 1.12       |
| Poland 2.75% 25/04/2028            | 20,605,000     | 4,308       | 0.98       |
| Poland 2.75% 25/10/2029            | 20,255,000     | 4,305       | 0.98       |
| Poland 2.75% IL 25/08/2023         | 56,511,000     | 15,449      | 3.54       |
| Poland 3.25% 25/07/2025            | 21,665,000     | 4,628       | 1.06       |
| Romania - 0.84% (0.00%)            |                |             |            |
| Romania 3.65% 24/09/2031           | 23,065,000     | 3,670       | 0.84       |
| Russia - 8.31% (8.55%)             |                |             |            |
| Russia 6.5% 28/02/2024             | 1,294,715,000  | 13,391      | 3.07       |
| Russia 7% 25/01/2023               | 771,510,000    | 8,075       | 1.85       |
| Russia 7.05% 19/01/2028            | 499,115,000    | 5,288       | 1.21       |
| Russia 8.15% 03/02/2027            | 421,026,000    | 4,758       | 1.09       |
| Russia 8.5% 17/09/2031             | 405,313,000    | 4,782       | 1.09       |
| Serbia - 1.05% (1.82%)             |                |             |            |
| Serbia 5.875% 08/02/2028           | 509,650,000    | 4,600       | 1.05       |
| South Africa - 3.03% (5.08%)       |                |             |            |
| South Africa 10.5% 21/12/2026      | 244,620,000    | 11,354      | 2.60       |
| South Africa 8.25% 31/03/2032      | 54,595,000     | 1,875       | 0.43       |
| Supranational - 0.45% (0.00%)      |                |             |            |
| IBRD 6% 09/03/2023                 | 40,000,000,000 | 1,978       | 0.45       |
| Tajikistan - 0.21% (0.34%)         |                |             |            |
| Tajikistan 7.125% 14/09/2027 (USD) | 1,825,000      | 904         | 0.21       |
| Thailand - 12.35% (9.67%)          |                |             |            |
| Thailand 1.25% IL 12/03/2028       | 1,100,440,000  | 27,658      | 6.33       |
| Thailand 2.125% 17/12/2026         | 121,445,000    | 3,149       | 0.72       |
| Thailand 2.875% 17/06/2046         | 71,031,000     | 1,923       | 0.44       |

| Stock description                           | Holding     | Market      | % of total |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------|
|   |             | value £'000 | net assets |
| Thailand 3.3% 17/06/2038                    | 82,375,000  | 2,458       | 0.56       |
| Thailand 3.4% 17/06/2036                    | 55,890,000  | 1,666       | 0.38       |
| Thailand 3.625% 16/06/2023                  | 151,440,000 | 4,035       | 0.93       |
| Thailand 3.775% 25/06/2032                  | 199,200,000 | 6,053       | 1.39       |
| Thailand 4.875% 22/06/2029                  | 219,518,000 | 7,000       | 1.60       |
| Turkey - 5.77% (2.79%)                      |             |             |            |
| Turkey 10.5% 11/08/2027                     | 27,331,965  | 2,963       | 0.68       |
| Turkey 2.9% IL 07/07/2027                   | 67,580,000  | 11,538      | 2.64       |
| Turkey 3% IL 02/08/2023                     | 43,720,000  | 10,726      | 2.45       |
| United States - 0.00% (4.29%)               |             |             |            |
| Uruguay - 1.76% (0.27%)                     |             |             |            |
| Uruguay 4.375% IL 15/12/2028                | 182,243,000 | 6,664       | 1.53       |
| Uruguay 9.875% 20/06/2022                   | 58,705,000  | 1,027       | 0.23       |
| Derivatives - 0.90% (-0.28%)                |             |             |            |
| Forward currency contracts (see Table 1)    |             | 171         | 0.04       |
| Futures contracts (see Table 2)             |             | -           | 0.00       |
| Inflation rate swap contracts (see Table 3) |             | 827         | 0.19       |
| Interest rate swap contracts (see Table 4)  |             | 2,937       | 0.67       |
| Portfolio of investments                    |             | 413,276     | 94.59      |
| Net other assets - 5.41% (4.41%)            |             | 23,616      | 5.41       |
| Net assets                                  |             | 436,892     | 100.00     |

Please note: figures are based on market values rather than economic exposure.

Unless otherwise stated the above holdings are in fixed interest securities.

Figures in brackets in the investment category headings refer to 30 September 2019.

Table 1: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts

|                                   |                       |         |                |      |               | Unrealised     |            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|------|---------------|----------------|------------|
|                                   |                       |         |                |      |               | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty                      | Settlement            | Buy     | Buy Amount     | Sell | Sell Amount   | £'000          | net assets |
| Barclays                          | 21/05/20              | GBP     | 2,110,012      | THB  | 87,000,000    | (26)           | (0.01      |
| Barclays                          | 28/05/20              | JPY     | 1,627,000,000  | GBP  | 11,299,301    | 872            | 0.20       |
| Barclays                          | 18/06/20              | GBP     | 1,310,427      | KRW  | 2,000,000,000 | (15)           | 0.00       |
| Barclays                          | 18/06/20              | JPY     | 124,000,000    | GBP  | 977,124       | (49)           | (0.01      |
| Barclays                          | 18/06/20              | MXN     | 373,400,000    | GBP  | 13,290,940    | (625)          | (0.14      |
| Barclays                          | 18/06/20              | MYR     | 114,800,000    | GBP  | 20,999,872    | 451            | 0.10       |
| Barclays                          | 25/06/20              | GBP     | 1,217,391      | HUF  | 490,000,000   | 15             | 0.00       |
| Barclays                          | 25/06/20              | GBP     | 17,195,442     | THB  | 684,000,000   | 403            | 0.09       |
| Barclays                          | 23/07/20              | NOK     | 45,615,000     | GBP  | 3,250,098     | 250            | 0.06       |
| Citigroup                         | 21/05/20              | RUB     | 533,000,000    | GBP  | 6,433,829     | (974)          | (0.22      |
| Citigroup                         | 18/06/20              | GBP     | 16,184,790     | TRY  | 132,270,000   | 384            | 0.09       |
| Citigroup                         | 16/10/20              | GBP     | 6,879,774      | NGN  | 3,320,000,000 | 930            | 0.21       |
| Deutsche Bank                     | 28/05/20              | GBP     | 3,730,660      | UAH  | 131,600,000   | 56             | 0.01       |
| HSBC                              | 21/05/20              | BRL     | 62,360,000     | GBP  | 11,078,167    | (1,423)        | (0.32      |
| HSBC                              | 21/05/20              | COP     | 54,700,000,000 | GBP  | 11,900,335    | (1,085)        | (0.25      |
| HSBC                              | 21/05/20              | GBP     | 971,781        | EUR  | 1,136,000     | (34)           | (0.01      |
| HSBC                              | 28/05/20              | GBP     | 14,479,686     | EGP  | 280,500,000   | 494            | 0.11       |
| HSBC                              | 28/05/20              | GBP     | 16,016,890     | UAH  | 565,000,000   | 241            | 0.06       |
| HSBC                              | 28/05/20              | GBP     | 9,076,691      | UYU  | 481,700,000   | 229            | 0.05       |
| HSBC                              | 28/05/20              | RON     | 10,500,000     | GBP  | 1,822,063     | 91             | 0.02       |
| HSBC                              | 18/06/20              | BRL     | 39,500,000     | GBP  | 6,460,606     | (357)          | (0.08      |
| HSBC                              | 23/07/20              | CZK     | 36,970,000     | GBP  | 1,233,127     | (38)           | (0.01      |
| JP Morgan Chase                   | 18/06/20              | GBP     | 2,624,660      | TRY  | 21,450,000    | 62             | 0.02       |
| JP Morgan Chase                   | 25/06/20              | GBP     | 1,517,598      | PHP  | 94,000,000    | 52             | 0.01       |
| Royal Bank of Canada              | 18/06/20              | MXN     | 246,500,000    | GBP  | 8,774,013     | (413)          | (0.09      |
| Royal Bank of Canada              | 25/06/20              | GBP     | 6,290,992      | PLN  | 32,200,000    | 50             | 0.01       |
| Royal Bank of Canada              | 25/06/20              | ZAR     | 127,000,000    | GBP  | 6,127,065     | (464)          | (0.11      |
| Royal Bank of Canada              | 23/07/20              | GBP     | 13,936,377     | CAD  | 23,600,000    | 571            | 0.13       |
| Royal Bank of Scotland            | 21/05/20              | GBP     | 5,537,124      | PEN  | 24,400,000    | (170)          | (0.04      |
| Royal Bank of Scotland            | 25/06/20              | GBP     | 7,286,695      | PEN  | 31,300,000    | (20)           | 0.00       |
| Royal Bank of Scotland            | 23/07/20              | GBP     | 6,398,328      | CLP  | 6,430,000,000 | 307            | 0.07       |
| Standard Chartered Bank           | 18/06/20              | CNY     | 39,800,000     | GBP  | 4,775,618     | (256)          | (0.06      |
| Standard Chartered Bank           | 18/06/20              | GBP     | 6,802,092      | IDR  | 0             | 662            | 0.15       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on oper | n forward currency co | ntracts |                |      |               | 171            | 0.04       |

Table 2: Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts

|  |          |          | Unrealised     |            |
|--|----------|----------|----------------|------------|
|  |          |          | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Futures  | Maturity | Notional | £'000          | net assets |
| US Ultra Long (CBT) June 2020                  | 30/06/20 | 23       | -              | 0.00       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts |          |          | -              | 0.00       |

#### Table 3: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open inflation rate swap contracts

|                        |             |                     |               |                         |                         | Unrealised     |            |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------|
|                        |             |                     |               |                         |                         | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty           | Ссу         | Termination         | Notional      | Fund pays               | Fund receives           | £'000          | net assets |
| Barclays               | GBP         | 15/09/29            | 17,600,000    | UK RPI All Items<br>NSA | 3.74%                   | 1,132          | 0.26       |
| JP Morgan Chase        | GBP         | 15/09/29            | 2,000,000     | 3.74%                   | UK RPI All Items<br>NSA | (129)          | (0.03)     |
| JP Morgan Chase        | GBP         | 15/09/29            | 2,750,000     | 3.74%                   | UK RPI All Items<br>NSA | (177)          | (0.04)     |
| Unrealised gains/(loss | ses) on ope | en interest rate sv | wap contracts |                         |                         | 827            | 0.19       |

#### Table 4: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open interest rate swap contracts

|                 |     |             |               |  |                                 | Unrealised     |            |
|-----------------|-----|-------------|---------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------|------------|
|                 |     |             |               |  |                                 | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty    | Ссу | Termination | Notional      | Fund pays  | Fund receives                   | £'000          | net assets |
| Barclays        | MXN | 12/02/25    | 260,000,000   | Mexico Interbank<br>TIIE 28 Day                      | 6.39%                           | 15             | 0.00       |
| Citigroup       | BRL | 02/01/29    | 21,110,000    | Brazil Cetip<br>Interbank Deposit<br>Rate            | 7.23%                           | (51)           | (0.01)     |
| Citigroup       | CNY | 10/06/24    | 213,500,000   | China Fixing Repo<br>Rates 7 Day                     | 2.88%                           | 676            | 0.15       |
| Citigroup       | MYR | 10/06/29    | 39,180,000    | Malaysia Interbank<br>Offered Rate<br>Fixing 3 Month | 3.51%                           | 545            | 0.13       |
| Citigroup       | RUB | 20/03/23    | 1,320,000,000 | MosPrime 3<br>Months Rate                            | 7.96%                           | 337            | 0.08       |
| Goldman Sachs   | RUB | 11/10/24    | 1,400,000,000 | MosPrime 3<br>Months Rate                            | 6.84%                           | (156)          | (0.04)     |
| JP Morgan Chase | MXN | 12/02/25    | 43,160,000    | 6.39%  | Mexico Interbank<br>TIIE 28 Day | (2)            | 0.00       |
| JP Morgan Chase | MXN | 14/03/25    | 300,000,000   | Mexico Interbank<br>TIIE 28 Day                      | 7.35%                           | 438            | 0.10       |

|                             |        |                 |               |  |  | Unrealised     |            |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--|--|----------------|------------|
|                             |        |                 |               |  |  | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty                | Ссу    | Termination     | Notional      | Fund pays  | Fund receives  | £'000          | net assets |
| Merrill Lynch               | HUF    | 26/07/24        | 4,800,000,000 | Budapest<br>Interbank Offered<br>Rates 6 Month<br>Index          | 0.89%  | 26             | 0.01       |
| Merrill Lynch               | HUF    | 26/07/24        | 7,700,000,000 | 0.89%  | Budapest<br>Interbank Offered<br>Rates 6 Month<br>Index          | (41)           | (0.01)     |
| Merrill Lynch               | MXN    | 12/02/25        | 27,000,000    | 6.39%  | Mexico Interbank<br>TIIE 28 Day                                  | (2)            | 0.00       |
| Merrill Lynch               | MXN    | 14/03/25        | 50,000,000    | 7.35%  | Mexico Interbank<br>TIIE 28 Day                                  | (73)           | (0.02)     |
| Merrill Lynch               | RUB    | 09/12/26        | 422,250,000   | MosPrime 3<br>Months Rate  | 6.80%  | (100)          | (0.02)     |
| Merrill Lynch               | ZAR    | 20/03/25        | 22,250,000    | 7.50%  | South Africa<br>Johannesburg<br>Interbank Agreed<br>Rate 3 Month | (34)           | (0.01)     |
| Merrill Lynch               | ZAR    | 20/03/25        | 190,000,000   | South Africa<br>Johannesburg<br>Interbank Agreed<br>Rate 3 Month | 7.50%  | 293            | 0.07       |
| Standard Chartered Bank     | MYR    | 12/02/26        | 84,000,000    | Malaysia Interbank<br>Offered Rate<br>Fixing 3 Month             | 3.73%  | 1,066          | 0.24       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) o | n open | interest rate s | wap contracts |  |  | 2,937          | 0.67       |

Lowest (financial period)

A Income

B Income

B Accumulation

C Accumulation

### **Fund Information**

| Fund and Share Information |   | 31.03.20                   | 30.09.19                 | 30.09.18                 | 30.09.17                   |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|                            | Total net asset value of                            | 436,892                    | 693,478                  | 708,844                  | 877,985                    |
|                            | scheme property (£'000)                             |                            |                          |                          |                            |
|                            | Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator <sup>1</sup>    | 5                          | 5                        | 5                        | Ę                          |
|                            | Net asset value per share (pence)                   |                            |                          |                          |                            |
|                            | A Income  | 80.64                      | 94.40                    | 87.22                    | 103.74                     |
|                            | B Accumulation                                      | 121.40                     | 139.35                   | 121.21                   | 134.02                     |
|                            | B Income  | 80.96                      | 94.70                    | 87.50                    | 104.09                     |
|                            | C Accumulation                                      | 178.11                     | 204.04                   | 176.76                   | 194.38                     |
|                            | Number of shares in issue                           |                            |                          |                          |                            |
|                            | A Income  | 290,190                    | 493,624                  | 303,847                  | 250,409                    |
|                            | B Accumulation                                      | 2,036,799                  | 1,867,542                | 978,311                  | 800,778                    |
|                            | B Income  | 11,248,221                 | 11,354,946               | 10,721,145               | 9,785,335                  |
|                            | C Accumulation                                      | 238,665,573                | 333,097,331              | 394,895,175              | 445,763,561                |
| Annual Income<br>Record    |   | Period to 31.03.20 (pence) | Year to 30.09.19 (pence) | Year to 30.09.18 (pence) | Year to 30.09.17           |
|                            | Income per share<br>(financial period) <sup>2</sup> |                            |                          |                          |                            |
|                            | A Income  | 1.40                       | 5.01                     | 6.08                     | 5.88                       |
|                            | B Accumulation                                      | 2.00                       | 7.98                     | 8.87                     | 8.16                       |
|                            | B Income  | 1.65                       | 5.68                     | 6.80                     | 6.66                       |
|                            | C Accumulation                                      | 3.50                       | 12.42                    | 13.94                    | 12.95                      |
| Yearly Highest and Lowest  |   | Period to 31.03.20 (pence) | Year to 30.09.19 (pence) | Year to 30.09.18 (pence) | Year to 30.09.17<br>(pence |
| Prices                     | Highest (financial period)                          |                            |                          |                          |                            |
|                            | A Income  | 96.53                      | 100.9                    | 105.7                    | 112.5                      |
|                            | B Accumulation                                      | 142.5                      | 144.4                    | 136.5                    | 140.4                      |
|                            | B Income  | 96.86                      | 101.4                    | 106.0                    | 113.1                      |
|                            | C Accumulation                                      | 208.7                      | 211.3                    | 198.0                    | 203.5                      |

79.79

119.1

80.20

174.7

84.55

117.5

84.84

171.4

88.05

117.0

88.55

170.6

98.17

119.5

98.61

172.6

### Fund Information cont.

### Ongoing Charges Figures

|                                      | 31.03.20 | 30.09.19 | 30.09.18          | 30.09.17 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
|                                      | (%)      | (%)      | (%)               | (%)      |
| Ongoing Charges Figures <sup>3</sup> |          |          |                   |          |
| A Income                             | 1.27     | 1.25     | 1.404             | 1.45     |
| B Accumulation                       | 0.56     | 0.55     | 0.70 <sup>5</sup> | 0.76     |
| B Income                             | 0.56     | 0.55     | 0.70 <sup>5</sup> | 0.75     |
| C Accumulation                       | 0.12     | 0.15     | 0.16              | 0.16     |

You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

<sup>1</sup>The Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. Further information is included in the Risk and Reward Profile section of the Fund's interim report.

<sup>2</sup>With effect from 1 October 2019, all permitted expenses of the Fund were allocated to capital for distribution purposes.

<sup>3</sup>The Ongoing Charges Figure is based on the expenses for the financial period and may vary from year to year. It excludes the cost of buying and selling assets for the Fund although custodian transaction costs are included. A further explanation of charges and costs relating to the Fund can be obtained by contacting Client Relations.

<sup>4</sup>With effect from 1 July 2018 the ACD's annual fee for Class A Shares decreased from 1.30% to 1.10%. As at 30 September 2018, the ACD considered 1.26% to be a more indicative rate for the ongoing charges figure.

<sup>5</sup>With effect from 1 July 2018 the ACD's annual fee for Class B Shares decreased from 0.60% to 0.40%. As at 30 September 2018, the ACD considered 0.56% to be a more indicative rate for the ongoing charges figure.

### Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited)

#### Statement of Total Return for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |           | 31 March 2 | 019      |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------|----------|
|  | £'000         | £'000     | £'000      | £'000    |
| Income   |               |           |            |          |
| Net capital gains/(losses)   |               | (106,871) |            | 5,406    |
| Revenue  | 20,494        |           | 26,609     |          |
| Expenses   | (417)         |           | (586)      |          |
| Net revenue before taxation  | 20,077        |           | 26,023     |          |
| Taxation   | (536)         |           | (1,156)    |          |
| Net revenue after taxation   |               | 19,541    |            | 24,867   |
| Total return before distributions  |               | (87,330)  |            | 30,273   |
| Distributions  |               | (14,443)  |            | (16,127) |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (101,773) |            | 14,146   |

#### Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |           | 31 March 2 | 2019    |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------|---------|
|  | €,000         | £'000     | £'000      | £'000   |
| Opening net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 693,478   |            | 708,844 |
| Amounts receivable on issue of shares  | 40,248        |           | 80,567     |         |
| Amounts payable on cancellation of shares                                    | (209,041)     |           | (7,881)    |         |
|  |               | (168,793) |            | 72,686  |
| Dilution adjustment  |               | 3,458     |            | 249     |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (101,773) |            | 14,146  |
| Retained distributions on accumulation shares                                |               | 10,522    |            | 16,941  |
| Closing net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 436,892   |            | 812,866 |

### Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited) cont.

#### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

|   | 31 March 2020 | 30 September 2019 |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
|   | €,000         | £'000             |
| Assets:                                 |               |                   |
| Fixed assets:                           |               |                   |
| Investments                             | 419,990       | 668,625           |
| Current assets:                         |               |                   |
| Debtors                                 | 76,055        | 16,938            |
| Cash and bank balances                  | 26,080        | 25,890            |
| Total assets                            | 522,125       | 711,453           |
| Liabilities:                            |               |                   |
| Investment liabilities                  | (6,714)       | (5,745)           |
| Creditors:                              |               |                   |
| Bank overdrafts                         | (3,297)       | (8,065)           |
| Distributions payable                   | (92)          | (369)             |
| Other creditors                         | (75,130)      | (3,796)           |
| Total liabilities                       | (85,233)      | (17,975)          |
| Net assets attributable to shareholders | 436,892       | 693,478           |

#### **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association in May 2014.

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those in the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 and are described in those annual financial statements.

### **BAILLIE GIFFORD**

### Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund

### a sub-fund of Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited) for the six months ended 31 March 2020





## Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund

#### **Investment Objective**

The Fund aims to produce a combination of income and capital growth.

#### **Investment Policy**

The Fund will invest at least 80% in sub-investment grade bonds. The Fund may also invest in other bonds. The bonds in which the Fund invests will be denominated in sterling or denominated in other currencies and hedged back to sterling. Currency forwards and derivatives, which are types of financial contracts, are used for both investment purposes and in the management of risk. The Fund will be actively managed.

#### Risk and Reward Profile

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the Risk and Reward Indicator.

| Typically lower rewards,<br>lower risk<br>◆ |   |   |   | Typica | lly higher<br>hi | rewards,<br>igher risk |
|---|---|---|---|--------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5      | 6                | 7                      |

Please note that even the lowest risk class can lose you money and that extreme adverse market circumstances can mean you suffer severe losses in all cases.

The Fund is classified in the category above because it invests in corporate bonds which generally provide higher rewards and higher risks than other investments such as government bonds and cash.

The indicator does not take into account the following relevant material risks:

Investment markets can go down as well as up and market conditions can change rapidly. The value of an investment in the Fund, and any income from it, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested.

Custody of assets involves a risk of loss if the custodian becomes insolvent or breaches duties of care.

Bonds issued by companies and governments may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates, expectations of inflation and a decline in the creditworthiness of the bond issuer. The issuers of bonds in which the Fund invests may not be able to pay the bond income as promised or could fail to repay the capital amount.

The Fund's concentrated portfolio relative to similar funds may result in large movements in the share price in the short term.

Derivatives may be used to obtain, increase or reduce exposure to assets and may result in the Fund being leveraged. This may result in greater movements (down or up) in the price of shares in the Fund. It is not our intention that the use of derivatives will significantly alter the overall risk profile of the Fund.

In certain circumstances it can be difficult to buy or sell the Fund's holdings and even small purchases or sales can cause their prices to move significantly, affecting the value of the Fund and the price of shares in the Fund.

Market values for securities which are difficult to trade may not be readily available, and there can be no assurance that any value assigned to them will reflect the price the Fund might receive upon their sale. In certain circumstances it can be difficult to buy or sell the Fund's holdings and even small purchases or sales can cause their prices to move significantly, affecting the value of the Fund and the price of shares in the Fund.

The process for the UK to exit the European Union introduces elements of political uncertainty and may have practical consequences for the Fund. Developments will be closely monitored.

## Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund cont.

Infectious viruses may pose significant threats to human health and may be highly disruptive to global economies and markets. The economic and market disruptions caused by infectious viruses could impact the value of the investments of the Fund and the distributions paid by the Fund to shareholders.

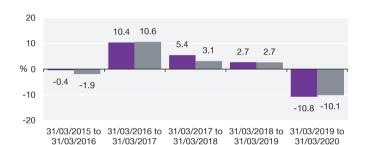
Further details of the risks associated with investing in the Fund can be found in the Prospectus which is available by contacting Client Relations or visiting our website.

#### Fees Charged to Capital

For distribution purposes, all expenses of the Fund are allocated to capital. This will reduce the capital value of the Fund.

### Investment Report

#### Past Performance



■Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund B Income Shares¹

■Investment Association Sterling High Yield Bond sector median<sup>2</sup>

The performance figures shown in this graph are for Class B Income Shares. Performance figures reflect the ACD's annual fee of 0.35%, but exclude any initial charge paid. Performance figures for the other share classes in issue can be obtained by contacting Client Relations. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

In the six months to 31 March 2020 the return on B Income Shares was -13.6%<sup>3</sup>. The investment objective of the Fund is to produce a combination of income and capital growth. During the period income totalling 1.9 pence per share was declared for B Income Shares. The capital return in the period was -14.9%<sup>4</sup>.

In 2019, the high yield market delivered some of the strongest returns the asset class has achieved since the recovery from the Eurozone crisis. As such, the asset class traded at expensive levels at the turn of the new decade, reflecting a long period of monetary stimulus and relatively benign economic conditions. Subsequently, concern over the economic implications of coronavirus and the oil price war began to materialise in February and hit hardest in March, as market returns turned significantly negative.

The economic outlook is highly uncertain but clearly more challenging for almost all economies and businesses. Monetary stimulus has been boosted further but this, of itself, is unlikely to be enough to avoid a significant increase in corporate distress. Governments around the world are rapidly seeking means to support

individuals and businesses to avoid permanent harm arising from what is, hopefully, a short-lived exogenous threat. However, a rise in default rates is inevitable.

We consider the majority of our holdings to be only moderately affected by the social and economic disruption caused by this global health pandemic, with a little over a quarter of the portfolio either unimpacted or set to benefit from the changes catalysed by this unprecedented shock. Technology, media, healthcare and telecoms companies are holding up better than most – including the likes of holdings Match.com, IQVIA, Arqiva and Netflix.

While our approach focuses on delivering through-the-cycle resilience, we recognise that some of our holdings will be more severely impacted over the coming months. Leisure, services, automotive and transport companies have been the hardest hit with some companies experiencing partial or complete closure of their business leading to total revenue loss in some cases. We consider one sixth of the portfolio to be severely affected, including the likes of Pure Gym, Garrett Motion and Novem. At this time, only one holding, accounting for 0.2% of the Fund's value, is in imminent danger of defaulting. Codere, a Spanish gaming company with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Source: FE, 10am dealing prices, income reinvested, after charges. <sup>2</sup>Source: FE and relevant underlying index provider, total return. Please see Disclaimer on page 96. <sup>3</sup>Source: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, closing mid prices, gross income reinvested, after charges. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance. <sup>4</sup>Source: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, closing mid prices, excluding income, after charges.

### Investment Report cont.

extensive operations in Latin America, has a major refinancing need in the next eighteen months. The dual impact of the temporary closure of many operations plus significantly reduced capital-market risk appetite mean that this refinancing is now in significant doubt.

Having entered this period with a good quality portfolio, we have felt little need to trade in recent volatile and costly markets. We are, however, alert for opportunities among strong but temporarily challenged or out-of-favour companies. We believe that current valuations, in many cases, are now attractive, notwithstanding the prospects of a difficult year for many companies and the likely demise of some weaker businesses.

Lucy Isles and Robert Baltzer, 5 May 2020

#### Coronavirus update

It is important during times of extreme market volatility to remember that investing is a long-term activity. History indicates that acting hastily in the midst of a crisis is typically unhelpful, and we would encourage all investors to step back and maintain perspective. When we invest on behalf of clients, it is with a three-year view of the opportunities that a company has to grow. Though markets have been very volatile for weeks, the types of companies we generally favour – those with growing opportunities, competitive advantages and strong balance sheets – are not only well placed to survive short-term pressures, but to thrive when the current crisis is over. We have therefore made few changes to client portfolios. Most of our thinking now has turned to the likely acceleration of trends that were already in place pre-crisis, and the associated long-term investment opportunities. Many of the companies in which we invest for clients have shown their focus on social responsibility by becoming involved in efforts to find treatments for Covid-19, producing much-needed medical supplies, and supporting their own staff rather than focusing relentlessly on short-term profitability. We have encouraged them to do so in the belief that those which act responsibly now will see the benefit in happier times.

### Principal Bond Holdings as at 31 March 2020

| Investment                              | Percentage of |
|---|---------------|
|   | total Fund    |
| Netflix 4.625% 2029                     | 2.16          |
| Darling Ingredients 3.625% 2026         | 2.06          |
| Unicredit 4.875% 2024/29                | 2.03          |
| Co-operative Group 7.5% 2026            | 1.86          |
| Virgin Media 5% 2027                    | 1.81          |
| Arqiva Group 6.75% 2023                 | 1.76          |
| International Game Technology 3.5% 2026 | 1.74          |
| Ardagh Packaging 4.75% 2027             | 1.70          |
| Jefferies Finance 6.25% 2026 (144A)     | 1.68          |
| Aroundtown Properties 3.75% 2023 Perp   | 1.66          |

## Material Portfolio Changes for the six months ended 31 March 2020

| Largest Purchases                | Cost   |
|----------------------------------|--------|
|                                  | £'000  |
| Sappi 3.125% 2026                | 13,623 |
| CPI Property 4.875% 2025 Perp    | 11,396 |
| Merlin Entertainments 4.5% 2027  | 9,646  |
| Grifols Worldwide 1.625% 2025    | 9,607  |
| Enviva Partners 6.5% 2026 (144A) | 8,132  |
| Banijay 3.5% 2025                | 8,050  |
| TalkTalk 3.875% 2025             | 7,965  |
| Telecom Italia 5.25% 2055        | 7,862  |
| Emparq 1.875% 01/02/2028         | 7,679  |
| VodafoneZiggo VFN 2.5% 2024      | 7,610  |

| Largest Sales                          | Proceeds |
|--|----------|
|  | £'000    |
| Residomo 3.375% 2024                   | 14,481   |
| Interxion 4.75% 2025                   | 9,942    |
| Sappi 4% 2023                          | 9,747    |
| Banijay 4% 2022                        | 8,729    |
| Solarcity 1.625% 2019 Convertible      | 8,553    |
| Telecom Italia 1.125% 2022 Convertible | 8,087    |
| Catalent 4.75% 2024                    | 7,608    |
| L Brands 6.875% 2035                   | 6,923    |
| First Cash 5.375% 2024 (144A)          | 6,845    |
| WEPA 3.75% 2024                        | 6,815    |

The largest purchases and sales of bonds have been shown.

### Portfolio Statement as at 31 March 2020

| Stock description                          | Holding    | Market      | % of total |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
|  |            | value £'000 | net assets |
|  |            |             |            |
| Automotive - 3.98% (5.83%)                 |            |             |            |
| Garrett Motion 5.125% 2026                 | 15,290,000 | 8,447       | 1.27       |
| Gestamp Group 3.25% 2026                   | 7,801,000  | 5,605       | 0.85       |
| Nemak 3.25% 2024                           | 9,392,000  | 6,625       | 1.00       |
| Novem Group FRN 2024                       | 10,170,000 | 5,715       | 0.86       |
| Banking - 2.81% (2.93%)                    |            |             |            |
| Sainsbury Bank 6% 2022/27                  | 5,461,000  | 5,161       | 0.78       |
| Unicredit 4.875% 2024/29                   | 16,365,000 | 13,462      | 2.03       |
| Basic Industry - 11.32% (10.63%)           |            |             |            |
| Alcoa 7% 2026 144A                         | 9,635,000  | 7,121       | 1.08       |
| Cemex 2.75% 2024                           | 8,529,000  | 6,722       | 1.01       |
| Enviva Partners 6.5% 2026 (144A)           | 10,272,000 | 8,077       | 1.22       |
| Italmatch Chemicals FRN 2024               | 8,510,000  | 5,717       | 0.86       |
| James Hardie 3.625% 2026                   | 11,121,000 | 8,867       | 1.34       |
| James Hardie 4.75% 2025 (144A)             | 5,690,000  | 4,382       | 0.66       |
| OCI 3.125% 2024                            | 8,495,000  | 6,591       | 1.00       |
| Sappi 3.125% 2026                          | 16,100,000 | 10,336      | 1.56       |
| SNF 2.875% 2023                            | 7,885,000  | 6,578       | 0.99       |
| SNF 4.875% 2025(144A)                      | 7,670,000  | 5,833       | 0.88       |
| Victoria 5.25% 2024                        | 7,300,000  | 4,780       | 0.72       |
| Capital Goods - 6.47% (6.71%)              |            |             |            |
| Ardagh Packaging 2.75% 2024                | 6,370,000  | 5,374       | 0.81       |
| Ardagh Packaging 4.75% 2027                | 12,270,000 | 11,257      | 1.70       |
| Belden 2.875% 2025                         | 11,672,000 | 8,322       | 1.26       |
| Colfax 3.25% 2025                          | 11,806,000 | 8,105       | 1.22       |
| Sealed Air 4.5% 2023                       | 7,087,000  | 6,549       | 0.99       |
| Wesco 9% 2026 (144A)                       | 4,995,000  | 3,273       | 0.49       |
| Commercial Mortgage Backed - 0.00% (0.00%) |            |             |            |
| Deco 12-UK 4 Class F <sup>1</sup>          | 1,133,707  | -           | 0.00       |

| Stock description                       | Holding    | Market      | % of total |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|
|   |            | value £'000 | net assets |
|   |            |             |            |
| Consumer Goods - 1.61% (1.63%)          |            |             |            |
| Herbalife Nutrition 7.25% 2026 144A     | 15,555,000 | 10,663      | 1.61       |
| Energy - 1.49% (1.53%)                  |            |             |            |
| Laredo Petroleum 10.125% 2028           | 7,500,000  | 2,298       | 0.34       |
| Neptune 6.625% 2025                     | 9,830,000  | 4,421       | 0.67       |
| Sunpower 4% 2023 Convertible            | 5,048,000  | 3,166       | 0.48       |
| Financial Services - 6.91% (8.63%)      |            |             |            |
| Allfunds 4.125% 2024 PIK                | 13,048,438 | 9,598       | 1.45       |
| First Cash 5.375% 2024 (144A)           | 4,877,000  | 3,766       | 0.57       |
| Jefferies Finance 6.25% 2026 (144A)     | 14,935,000 | 11,142      | 1.68       |
| LeasePlan 7.375% 2024 Perp AT1          | 14,400,000 | 10,267      | 1.55       |
| SoftBank 4.5% 2025                      | 11,892,000 | 9,572       | 1.45       |
| Softbank 5% 2028                        | 1,810,000  | 1,417       | 0.21       |
| Health Care - 3.57% (3.51%)             |            |             |            |
| Grifols Worldwide 1.625% 2025           | 11,100,000 | 9,446       | 1.43       |
| IQVIA 3.25% 2025                        | 9,925,000  | 8,563       | 1.29       |
| Unilabs 5.75% 2025                      | 6,955,000  | 5,652       | 0.85       |
| Insurance - 6.55% (6.36%)               |            |             |            |
| Brit Insurance 6.625% 2020/30           | 5,679,000  | 5,450       | 0.83       |
| Hiscox 6.125% 2025/45                   | 6,039,000  | 6,095       | 0.92       |
| Pension Insurance 6.5% 2024             | 9,302,000  | 10,210      | 1.54       |
| Pension Insurance 8% 2026               | 4,159,000  | 4,956       | 0.75       |
| Phoenix Life 7.25% 2021 Perp            | 8,757,000  | 8,616       | 1.30       |
| Rothesay Life 8% 2025                   | 7,462,000  | 8,028       | 1.21       |
| Leisure - 5.69% (6.45%)                 |            |             |            |
| Codere 6.75% 2021                       | 4,000,000  | 1,232       | 0.18       |
| International Game Technology 3.5% 2026 | 17,240,000 | 11,521      | 1.74       |
| Merlin Entertainments 4.5% 2027         | 11,005,000 | 7,063       | 1.07       |
| Pure Gym 6.375% 2025                    | 12,748,000 | 8,658       | 1.31       |

| Stock description                        | Holding    | Market      | % of total |  |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|--|
|  |            | value £'000 | net assets |  |
| Scientific Games 3.375% 2026             | 13,325,000 | 9,195       | 1.39       |  |
| Media - 9.08% (8.07%)                    |            |             |            |  |
| Banijay 3.5% 2025                        | 6,300,000  | 5,012       | 0.76       |  |
| Graham Holdings 5.75% 2026 (144A)        | 9,233,000  | 7,148       | 1.08       |  |
| Netflix 4.625% 2029                      | 15,786,000 | 14,301      | 2.16       |  |
| Townsquare 6.5% 2023 (144A)              | 4,750,000  | 3,678       | 0.55       |  |
| Virgin Media 5% 2027                     | 12,620,000 | 11,978      | 1.81       |  |
| Virgin Media 5.5% 2024                   | 3,919,000  | 3,790       | 0.57       |  |
| VodafoneZiggo VFN 2.5% 2024              | 8,810,000  | 7,294       | 1.10       |  |
| Ziggo 2.875% 2030                        | 8,600,000  | 6,933       | 1.05       |  |
| Real Estate - 4.77% (6.18%)              |            |             |            |  |
| Aroundtown Properties 3.75% 2023 Perp    | 12,800,000 | 10,975      | 1.66       |  |
| CPI Property 4.875% 2025 Perp            | 12,500,000 | 9,661       | 1.46       |  |
| Equinix 2.875% 2025                      | 13,043,000 | 10,954      | 1.65       |  |
| Retail - 7.20% (7.70%)                   |            |             |            |  |
| Co-operative Group 5.125% 2024           | 3,380,000  | 3,327       | 0.50       |  |
| Co-operative Group 7.5% 2026             | 12,213,000 | 12,311      | 1.86       |  |
| Hanesbrands 3.5% 2024                    | 10,583,000 | 9,257       | 1.40       |  |
| Liberty Interactive 4% 2029 Convertible  | 12,028,000 | 6,793       | 1.02       |  |
| Sally 5.625% 2025                        | 9,551,000  | 6,287       | 0.95       |  |
| Travis Perkins 4.5% 2023                 | 11,410,000 | 9,716       | 1.47       |  |
| Services - 4.57% (6.05%)                 |            |             |            |  |
| Darling Ingredients 3.625% 2026          | 17,033,000 | 13,630      | 2.06       |  |
| Dometic Group 3% 2026                    | 9,165,000  | 6,346       | 0.96       |  |
| Paprec 4% 2025                           | 12,602,000 | 7,639       | 1.15       |  |
| Sarens 5.75% 2027                        | 4,600,000  | 2,632       | 0.40       |  |
| Technology & Electronics - 2.26% (2.28%) |            |             |            |  |
| Dell 7.1% 2028                           | 8,975,000  | 6,949       | 1.05       |  |
| Match.com 5% 2027 144A                   | 8,422,000  | 6,486       | 0.98       |  |

| Stock description                        | Holding    | Market      | % of total |  |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|--|
|  |            | value £'000 | net assets |  |
| Match.com 5.625% 2029 144A               | 1,998,000  | 1,539       | 0.23       |  |
| Widelingsin 6.02076 2020 17 W            | 1,000,000  | 1,000       | 0.20       |  |
| Telecommunications - 9.00% (8.43%)       |            |             |            |  |
| Arqiva Group 6.75% 2023                  | 11,612,000 | 11,627      | 1.76       |  |
| Cincinnati Bell 8% 2025 (144A)           | 7,035,000  | 5,816       | 0.88       |  |
| Cogent Communications 4.375% 2024        | 3,821,000  | 3,091       | 0.47       |  |
| Millicom 6% 2025 144A                    | 10,479,000 | 7,775       | 1.17       |  |
| Millicom 6.625% 2026 (144A)              | 6,779,000  | 5,188       | 0.78       |  |
| TalkTalk 3.875% 2025                     | 7,900,000  | 7,083       | 1.07       |  |
| Telecom Italia 2.5% 2023                 | 6,653,000  | 5,740       | 0.87       |  |
| Telecom Italia 4% 2024                   | 5,288,000  | 4,654       | 0.70       |  |
| Telecom Italia 5.25% 2055                | 7,600,000  | 6,701       | 1.01       |  |
| Telecom Italia 7.2% 2036                 | 2,327,000  | 1,942       | 0.29       |  |
| Transportation - 1.55% (0.00%)           |            |             |            |  |
| Emparq 1.875% 01/02/2028                 | 9,110,000  | 6,868       | 1.03       |  |
| Hurtigruten 3.375% 2025                  | 6,900,000  | 3,431       | 0.52       |  |
| Utilities - 2.69% (2.86%)                |            |             |            |  |
| EDF 6% 2026 Perp                         | 11,200,000 | 10,789      | 1.63       |  |
| EDP 4.496% 2024/79                       | 7,700,000  | 7,018       | 1.06       |  |
| <b>Derivatives - 2.45% (1.39%)</b>       |            |             |            |  |
| Forward currency contracts (see Table 1) |            | 16,233      | 2.45       |  |
| Futures contracts (see Table 2)          |            | -           | 0.00       |  |
| Portfolio of investments                 |            | 622,486     | 93.97      |  |
| Net other assets - 6.03% (2.83%)         |            | 39,954      | 6.03       |  |
| Net assets                               |            | 662,440     | 100.00     |  |
|  |            |             |            |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The issuer of this bond has deferred making interest payments, therefore the bond has been valued at the Investment Adviser's valuation.

Please note: figures are based on market values rather than economic exposure.

Unless otherwise stated the above holdings are in fixed interest securities.

Figures in brackets in the investment category headings refer to 30 September 2019.

Table 1: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts

|  |            |     |             |      |             | Unrealised     |            |
|--|------------|-----|-------------|------|-------------|----------------|------------|
|  |            |     |             |      |             | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty   | Settlement | Buy | Buy Amount  | Sell | Sell Amount | £'000          | net assets |
| HSBC   | 14/05/20   | GBP | 359,142,331 | EUR  | 394,495,000 | 9,747          | 1.47       |
| Royal Bank of Scotland                                       | 14/05/20   | GBP | 132,538,287 | USD  | 156,425,000 | 6,486          | 0.98       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts |            |     |             |      | 16.233      | 2.45           |            |

#### Table 2: Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts

| Futures  |          |          | % of total |            |
|--|----------|----------|------------|------------|
|  | Maturity | Notional | £'000      | net assets |
| US 5 Year Note June 2020                       | 06/07/20 | (364)    | -          | 0.00       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts |          |          | -          | 0.00       |

30.09.17

438,779

130.01 231.68 134.12

349.29

3

### **Fund Information**

| Information |  |         |         |         |  |
|-------------|--|---------|---------|---------|--|
|             | Total net asset value of scheme property (£'000) | 662,440 | 715,542 | 458,154 |  |
|             | Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator <sup>1</sup> | 3       | 3       | 3       |  |
|             | Net asset value per share (pence)                |         |         |         |  |
|             | A Income   | 111.02  | 130.65  | 127.53  |  |
|             | B Accumulation                                   | 217.81  | 252.15  | 236.39  |  |
|             | B Income   | 114.68  | 134.79  | 131.55  |  |
|             | C Accumulation                                   | 331.27  | 382.83  | 357.64  |  |

31.03.20

30.09.19

30.09.18

C Income 119.78 140.84 137.46 140.15 Number of shares in issue A Income 12,134,910 12,174,518 11,526,980 12,478,949 **B** Accumulation 156,016,707 140,213,442 88,947,291 71,256,206 B Income 170,373,706 160,171,997 146,337,417 134,794,685 C Accumulation 34,337,106 34,008,600 11,374,500 21,953,600 C Income 500 500 500 500

**Annual Income** Record

**Fund and Share** 

|  | Period to 31.03.20<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.19<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.18 (pence) | Year to 30.09.17 (pence) |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Income per share (financial period) <sup>2</sup> |                               |                             |                          |                          |
| A Income   | 1.60                          | 4.38                        | 4.26                     | 4.21                     |
| B Accumulation                                   | 3.20                          | 9.80                        | 9.22                     | 8.75                     |
| B Income   | 1.90                          | 5.39                        | 5.28                     | 5.21                     |
| C Accumulation                                   | 6.30                          | 16.14                       | 15.16                    | 14.33                    |
| C Income   | 2.20                          | 6.14                        | 6.00                     | 5.91                     |

### Fund Information cont.

Yearly Highest and Lowest Prices

|                            | Period to 31.03.20<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.19<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.18<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.17<br>(pence) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Highest (financial period) |                               |                             |                             |                             |
| A Income                   | 134.0                         | 133.7                       | 132.9                       | 132.7                       |
| B Accumulation             | 260.7                         | 254.2                       | 238.6                       | 233.3                       |
| B Income                   | 138.4                         | 138.4                       | 137.2                       | 137.3                       |
| C Accumulation             | 396.4                         | 385.9                       | 360.1                       | 351.7                       |
| C Income                   | 144.7                         | 144.8                       | 143.4                       | 143.6                       |
| Lowest (financial period)  |                               |                             |                             |                             |
| A Income                   | 105.2                         | 122.3                       | 127.9                       | 124.1                       |
| B Accumulation             | 204.9                         | 228.5                       | 233.1                       | 213.3                       |
| B Income                   | 108.8                         | 126.2                       | 132.2                       | 128.1                       |
| C Accumulation             | 311.6                         | 346.1                       | 351.4                       | 320.4                       |
| <u>C Income</u>            | 113.7                         | 131.9                       | 138.2                       | 133.9                       |
|                            | 24.00.00                      | 20.00.10                    | 20.00.10                    | 20.00.17                    |

Ongoing Charges Figures

|                                      | 31.03.20 | 30.09.19 | 30.09.18 | 30.09.17 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                      | (%)      | (%)      | (%)      | (%)      |
| Ongoing Charges Figures <sup>3</sup> |          |          |          |          |
| A Income                             | 1.02     | 1.02     | 1.02     | 1.03     |
| B Accumulation                       | 0.37     | 0.37     | 0.38     | 0.37     |
| B Income                             | 0.37     | 0.37     | 0.38     | 0.38     |
| C Accumulation                       | 0.02     | 0.02     | 0.03     | 0.03     |
| C Income                             | 0.01     | 0.02     | 0.03     | 0.03     |

You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

<sup>1</sup>The Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. Further information is included in the Risk and Reward Profile section of the Fund's interim report.

<sup>2</sup>With effect from 1 October 2019, all permitted expenses of the Fund were allocated to capital for distribution purposes.

<sup>3</sup>The Ongoing Charges Figure is based on the expenses for the financial period and may vary from year to year. It excludes the cost of buying and selling assets for the Fund although custodian transaction costs are included. A further explanation of charges and costs relating to the Fund can be obtained by contacting Client Relations.

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited)

#### Statement of Total Return for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |           | 31 March 20 | 31 March 2019 |  |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--|
|  | £'000         | £'000     | £'000       | £'000         |  |
| Income   |               |           |             |               |  |
| Net capital gains/(losses)   |               | (121,079) |             | 2,746         |  |
| Revenue  | 15,910        |           | 12,156      |               |  |
| Expenses   | (1,190)       |           | (838)       |               |  |
| Net revenue before taxation  | 14,720        |           | 11,318      |               |  |
| Taxation   | -             |           | -           |               |  |
| Net revenue after taxation   |               | 14,720    |             | 11,318        |  |
| Total return before distributions  |               | (106,359) |             | 14,064        |  |
| Distributions  |               | (10,201)  |             | (7,659)       |  |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (116,560) |             | 6,405         |  |

#### Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |           | 31 March 2019 |         |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------|
|  | £'000         | £'000     | £'000         | £'000   |
| Opening net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 715,542   |               | 458,154 |
| Amounts receivable on issue of shares  | 91,177        |           | 223,094       |         |
| Amounts payable on cancellation of shares                                    | (35,158)      |           | (38,973)      |         |
|  |               | 56,019    |               | 184,121 |
| Dilution adjustment  |               | 344       |               | 945     |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (116,560) |               | 6,405   |
| Retained distributions on accumulation shares                                |               | 7,095     |               | 5,306   |
| Closing net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 662,440   |               | 654,931 |

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited) cont.

#### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

|   | 31 March 2020 | 31 September 2019 |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
|   | £'000         | £'000             |
| Assets:                                 |               |                   |
| Fixed assets:                           |               |                   |
| Investments                             | 622,486       | 695,324           |
| Current assets:                         |               |                   |
| Debtors                                 | 32,557        | 36,865            |
| Cash and bank balances                  | 42,262        | 22,611            |
| Total assets                            | 697,305       | 754,800           |
| Liabilities:                            |               |                   |
| Creditors:                              |               |                   |
| Bank overdrafts                         | (84)          | (85)              |
| Distributions payable                   | (1,716)       | (4,309)           |
| Other creditors                         | (33,065)      | (34,864)          |
| Total liabilities                       | (34,865)      | (39,258)          |
| Net assets attributable to shareholders | 662,440       | 715,542           |

#### **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association in May 2014.

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those in the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 and are described in those annual financial statements.

### **BAILLIE GIFFORD**

### Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Bond Fund

### a sub-fund of Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited) for the six months ended 31 March 2020





# Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Bond Fund

#### **Investment Objective**

The Fund aims to outperform (after deduction of costs) the ICE Bank of America Sterling Non-Gilt Index by 0.5% per annum over rolling three-year periods.

#### **Investment Policy**

The Fund will invest at least 80% in investment grade bonds issued by corporate issuers, public bodies and supranationals. The Fund may also invest in other bonds including sub-investment grade bonds and government bonds. The Fund will invest in bonds denominated in sterling or hedged back to sterling. Currency forwards and derivatives, which are types of financial contracts, are used for both investment purposes and in the management of risk. The Fund will be actively managed and is not constrained by the index.

#### Risk and Reward Profile

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the Risk and Reward Indicator.



Please note that even the lowest risk class can lose you money and that extreme adverse market circumstances can mean you suffer severe losses in all cases.

The Fund is classified in the category above because it invests in corporate bonds which generally provide higher rewards and higher risks than other investments such as government bonds and cash. The indicator does not take into account the following relevant material risks:

Investment markets can go down as well as up and market conditions can change rapidly. The value of an investment in the Fund, and any income from it, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested.

Custody of assets involves a risk of loss if the custodian becomes insolvent or breaches duties of care.

Bonds issued by companies and governments may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates, expectations of inflation and a decline in the creditworthiness of the bond issuer. The issuers of bonds in which the Fund invests may not be able to pay the bond income as promised or could fail to repay the capital amount.

The Fund's concentrated portfolio relative to similar funds may result in large movements in the share price in the short term.

Derivatives may be used to obtain, increase or reduce exposure to assets and may result in the Fund being leveraged. This may result in greater movements (down or up) in the price of shares in the Fund. It is not our intention that the use of derivatives will significantly alter the overall risk profile of the Fund.

In certain circumstances it can be difficult to buy or sell the Fund's holdings and even small purchases or sales can cause their prices to move significantly, affecting the value of the Fund and the price of shares in the Fund.

Market values for securities which are difficult to trade may not be readily available, and there can be no assurance that any value assigned to them will reflect the price the Fund might receive upon their sale.

The process for the UK to exit the European Union introduces elements of political uncertainty and may have practical consequences for the Fund. Developments will be closely monitored.

Infectious viruses may pose significant threats to human health and may be highly disruptive to global economies and markets. The economic and market

# Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Bond Fund cont.

disruptions caused by infectious viruses could impact the value of the investments of the Fund and the distributions paid by the Fund to shareholders.

Further details of the risks associated with investing in the Fund can be found in the Prospectus which is available by contacting Client Relations or visiting our website.

#### Fees Charged to Capital

For distribution purposes, all expenses of the Fund are allocated to capital. This will reduce the capital value of the Fund.

### Investment Report

#### Past Performance



The performance figures shown in this graph are for Class B Income Shares. Performance figures reflect the ACD's annual fee of 0.25%, but exclude any initial charge paid. Performance figures for the other share classes in issue can be obtained by contacting Client Relations. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

For the six months to 31 March 2020 the return on B Income Shares was -5.2%<sup>3</sup> compared to the return on the ICE Bank of America Sterling Non-Gilt Index (the 'Index') of -3.9%<sup>2</sup> and the Fund's target (the 'target return') of the Index +0.5% of -3.7%<sup>2</sup>. The investment objective of the Fund is to outperform the Index by 0.5% per annum over rolling three-year periods. As such, we believe that shorter-term performance measurements are of limited relevance in assessing investment ability. The annualised three-year return on B Income Shares was 2.0%<sup>3</sup> compared to the return on the Index of 2.2%<sup>2</sup> per annum and the target return of 2.7%<sup>2</sup>.

The outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19) and its impact on economic growth had a material effect on corporate bond markets, particularly towards the end of the period. While UK government bond yields fell as the crisis developed, the additional yield spread offered by investment grade bonds rose markedly. The Fund holds a small number of high yield bonds – around 3% of the portfolio – and these had a negative impact on performance as the price of high yield bonds fell dramatically. We remain confident these are fundamentally sound businesses which should add value

over the long term. The Fund also holds a number of investment grade bonds which are denominated in US dollars, with the currency exposure hedged back to sterling. The US corporate bond market has been more affected than the UK and in the short term these positions have hurt performance.

During the period we purchased some credit protection for the portfolio through a credit default swap (CDS). This CDS contract is based on the performance of a broad index of corporate bonds, and the Fund benefits if the additional yield spread on that index rises. This proved to be beneficial for the Fund, during March in particular. Despite some short-term underperformance due to an indiscriminate sell-off across corporate bond markets, we believe this and other changes to the portfolio will improve longer-term performance. We focus on the long-term resilience of companies held by the Fund. We believe the portfolio was robust going into this crisis but we will continue to carefully assess the prospects for individual bonds and will look to add where opportunities have arisen. We are reasonably positive on the outlook for corporate bonds, especially the investment grade sector. Prices have fallen significantly,

<sup>1</sup>Source: FE, 10am dealing prices, income reinvested, after charges. <sup>2</sup>Source: FE and relevant underlying index provider, total return. The target return outperformance is compound daily therefore the Index return plus the outperformance will not equal the target return. Please see Disclaimer on page 96. <sup>3</sup>Source: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, closing mid prices, income reinvested, after charges. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

### Investment Report cont.

and central banks have begun to buy select assets while many companies have also been given access to short-term financing. We remain cautious in the near term, expecting more volatility, but will look for select opportunities to add to bonds with attractive valuations on a longer-term horizon.

Baillie Gifford & Co, 29 April 2020

#### Coronavirus update

It is important during times of extreme market volatility to remember that investing is a long-term activity. History indicates that acting hastily in the midst of a crisis is typically unhelpful, and we would encourage all investors to step back and maintain perspective. When we invest on behalf of clients, it is with a three-year view of the opportunities that a company has to grow. Though markets have been very volatile for weeks, the types of companies we generally favour – those with growing opportunities, competitive advantages and strong balance sheets – are not only well placed to survive short-term pressures, but to thrive when the current crisis is over. We have therefore made few changes to client portfolios. Most of our thinking now has turned to the likely acceleration of trends that were already in place pre-crisis, and the associated long-term investment opportunities. Many of the companies in which we invest for clients have shown their focus on social responsibility by becoming involved in efforts to find treatments for Covid-19, producing much-needed medical supplies, and supporting their own staff rather than focusing relentlessly on short-term profitability. We have encouraged them to do so in the belief that those which act responsibly now will see the benefit in happier times.

# Principal Bond Holdings as at 31 March 2020

| Investment                   | Percentage of |
|------------------------------|---------------|
|                              | total Fund    |
| Network Rail 4.75% 2024      | 2.67          |
| EIB 4.5% 2044                | 2.37          |
| KFW 6% 2028                  | 2.33          |
| UK Treasury 1.75% 22/01/2049 | 2.14          |
| Network Rail 4.75% 2035      | 1.95          |
| LCR Finance 4.5% 2028        | 1.94          |
| Lunar Funding 1 5.75% 2033   | 1.80          |
| KFW 5.75% 2032               | 1.79          |
| Northern Powergrid 2.5% 2025 | 1.65          |
| EIB 6% 2028                  | 1.63          |

# Material Portfolio Changes for the six months ended 31 March 2020

| Largest Purchases                     | Cost  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
|                                       | £,000 |
| France 0% 25/11/2029                  | 3,693 |
| UK Treasury 1.75% 22/01/2049          | 3,117 |
| Tesco Property Finance 6 5.4111% 2044 | 2,217 |
| UK Treasury 1.5% 22/01/2021           | 1,839 |
| UK Treasury 2.75% 07/09/2024          | 1,830 |
| HSBC Bank 5.375% 2025/30              | 1,773 |
| Longhurst Libra 3.25% 2043            | 1,757 |
| UK Treasury 4.75% 07/12/2030          | 1,719 |
| CPI Property 2.75% 2028               | 1,423 |
| Walt Disney 4.125% 2041               | 1,383 |

| Largest Sales               | Proceeds |
|-----------------------------|----------|
|                             | £'000    |
| France 0% 25/11/2029        | 3,716    |
| WP Carey 4.25% 2026         | 2,569    |
| EIB 5% 2039                 | 2,569    |
| KFW 5% 2036                 | 2,489    |
| IBRD 5.4% 2021              | 2,425    |
| Cadent 2.125% 2028          | 2,185    |
| EIB 5.375% 2021             | 2,167    |
| BBC 5.0636% 2033            | 2,041    |
| Equinor 6.125% 2028         | 1,933    |
| Verisk Analytic 4.125% 2029 | 1,869    |

The largest purchases and sales of bonds have been shown.

# Portfolio Statement as at 31 March 2020

| Stock description                         | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|---|-----------|-------------|------------|
|   |           | value £'000 | net assets |
|   |           |             |            |
| Agency - 0.87% (0.56%)                    |           |             |            |
| SNCF Reseau 5.25% 2035                    | 680,000   | 1,019       | 0.65       |
| Temasek 0.5% 2031                         | 400,000   | 343         | 0.22       |
| Asset Backed - 4.54% (4.13%)              |           |             |            |
| Dignity Finance 4.6956% 2049              | 2,064,000 | 1,651       | 1.05       |
| Lunar Funding 1 5.75% 2033                | 1,964,000 | 2,818       | 1.80       |
| Mitchells & Butlers 5.965% 15/12/2023     | 1,882,000 | 426         | 0.27       |
| Mitchells & Butlers 6.013% 15/12/2028     | 1,493,000 | 1,403       | 0.89       |
| Yorkshire Water 2.75% 2041                | 800,000   | 830         | 0.53       |
| Banking - 14.26% (13.40%)                 |           |             |            |
| Barclays 7.875% 2022 Perp                 | 900,000   | 663         | 0.42       |
| Citigroup 8.125% 2039                     | 1,860,000 | 2,353       | 1.50       |
| Erste Group Bank AG 6.5% 2024 Perp        | 600,000   | 499         | 0.32       |
| HSBC 6.25% 2041                           | 555,000   | 679         | 0.43       |
| HSBC 6.5% 2028 Perp                       | 800,000   | 603         | 0.38       |
| HSBC Bank 5.375% 2025/30                  | 1,300,000 | 1,405       | 0.90       |
| HSBC Bank 5.844% 2031 Perp                | 700,000   | 926         | 0.59       |
| HSBC Holdings 5.75% 2027                  | 2,010,000 | 2,245       | 1.43       |
| HSBC Holdings 6% 2040                     | 650,000   | 746         | 0.48       |
| ING Group 3% 2026                         | 800,000   | 781         | 0.50       |
| ING Group 4.7% 2028                       | 2,200,000 | 1,759       | 1.12       |
| ING Group 6.875% 2022 Perp                | 200,000   | 140         | 0.09       |
| Rabobank 4.625% Perp                      | 800,000   | 617         | 0.39       |
| Rabobank 6.91% 2038 Perp                  | 817,000   | 1,216       | 0.77       |
| Rabobank Group 4% 2029                    | 2,400,000 | 1,906       | 1.21       |
| RBS 3.125% 2027                           | 1,700,000 | 1,642       | 1.05       |
| RBS 4.892% 2029                           | 1,400,000 | 1,195       | 0.76       |
| Sainsbury Bank 6% 2022/27                 | 900,000   | 850         | 0.54       |
| Yorkshire Building Society 3.375% 2027/28 | 2,370,000 | 2,167       | 1.38       |

| Stock description                          | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------|
|  |           | value £'000 | net assets |
| Basic Industry - 0.23% (0.65%)             |           |             |            |
| LafargeHolcim 3% 2032                      | 400,000   | 364         | 0.23       |
| Lalarger folcim 370 2002                   | 400,000   | 304         | 0.20       |
| Capital Goods - 1.27% (1.56%)              |           |             |            |
| GE Capital 6.75% 2032                      | 780,000   | 747         | 0.47       |
| GE Capital 8% 2039                         | 900,000   | 1,250       | 0.80       |
| Commercial Mortgage Backed - 5.83% (5.18%) |           |             |            |
| BBC 5.0636% 2033                           | 2,181,000 | 2,222       | 1.42       |
| BBC White City Property 5.1202% 2035       | 1,670,000 | 1,859       | 1.18       |
| Telereal 5.3887% 2031/33 (A5)              | 2,407,000 | 1,539       | 0.98       |
| Telereal 5.5534% 2031/33 (A3)              | 1,715,000 | 1,463       | 0.93       |
| Tesco Property Finance 6 5.4111% 2044      | 1,800,000 | 2,071       | 1.32       |
| Consumer Goods - 1.75% (0.57%)             |           |             |            |
| Anheuser-Busch 2.25% 2029                  | 900,000   | 832         | 0.53       |
| Anheuser-Busch 4.7% 2036                   | 1,000,000 | 830         | 0.53       |
| Hasbro 3.9% 2029                           | 1,500,000 | 1,080       | 0.69       |
| Energy - 0.00% (1.07%)                     |           |             |            |
| Financial Services - 2.99% (2.34%)         |           |             |            |
| Berkshire Hathaway 2.625% 2059             | 1,000,000 | 1,033       | 0.66       |
| Fidelity 7.125% 2024                       | 900,000   | 1,035       | 0.66       |
| LeasePlan 7.375% 2024 Perp AT1             | 800,000   | 570         | 0.36       |
| Motability 3.625% 2036                     | 1,789,000 | 2,060       | 1.31       |
| Government Guaranteed - 11.36% (11.93%)    |           |             |            |
| KFW 5.55% 2021                             | 1,000,000 | 1,060       | 0.68       |
| KFW 5.75% 2032                             | 1,817,000 | 2,812       | 1.79       |
| KFW 6% 2028                                | 2,556,000 | 3,662       | 2.33       |
| LCR Finance 4.5% 2028                      | 2,329,000 | 3,044       | 1.94       |
| Network Rail 4.75% 2024                    | 3,619,000 | 4,187       | 2.67       |

| Stock description                     | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
|                                       |           | value £'000 | net assets |
| Network Rail 4.75% 2035               | 2,010,000 | 3,069       | 1.95       |
| Health Care - 0.73% (0.00%)           |           |             |            |
| AstraZeneca 6.45% 2037                | 1,000,000 | 1,144       | 0.73       |
| Insurance - 5.15% (4.13%)             |           |             |            |
| Admiral Group 5.5% 2024               | 1,710,000 | 1,844       | 1.17       |
| Legal & General 5.375% 2025/45        | 1,895,000 | 1,960       | 1.25       |
| Legal & General 5.5% 2044/64          | 317,000   | 305         | 0.19       |
| MetLife 3.5% 2026                     | 1,743,000 | 1,844       | 1.17       |
| Pension Insurance 5.625% 2030         | 225,000   | 227         | 0.15       |
| Pension Insurance 8% 2026             | 720,000   | 858         | 0.55       |
| Phoenix Life 6.625% 2025              | 303,000   | 308         | 0.20       |
| Phoenix Life 7.25% 2021 Perp          | 743,000   | 731         | 0.47       |
| Leisure - 1.02% (1.37%)               |           |             |            |
| Whitbread 3.375% 2025                 | 1,700,000 | 1,598       | 1.02       |
| Media - 0.90% (0.53%)                 |           |             |            |
| Walt Disney 4.125% 2041               | 1,500,000 | 1,416       | 0.90       |
| Real Estate - 9.93% (8.46%)           |           |             |            |
| Annington Funding 3.184% 2029         | 2,390,000 | 2,366       | 1.50       |
| British Land 5.264% 2035 (Bearer)     | 1,980,000 | 2,556       | 1.63       |
| CPI Property 2.75% 2028               | 1,400,000 | 1,262       | 0.80       |
| Housing & Care 3.288% 2049            | 1,720,000 | 1,947       | 1.24       |
| Longhurst Libra 3.25% 2043            | 1,500,000 | 1,600       | 1.02       |
| Sovereign Housing Capital 4.768% 2043 | 740,000   | 1,050       | 0.67       |
| Vonovia 5% 2023 (144a)                | 2,192,000 | 1,930       | 1.23       |
| Welltower 4.5% 2034                   | 1,500,000 | 1,661       | 1.06       |
| Welltower 4.8% 2028                   | 1,097,000 | 1,225       | 0.78       |
| Retail - 2.42% (1.23%)                |           |             |            |
| LVMH 0.375% 2031                      | 800,000   | 660         | 0.42       |
| LVMH 1.125% 2027                      | 1,100,000 | 1,028       | 0.66       |

| Stock description                        | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------|
|  |           | value £'000 | net assets |
| Walmart Stores 5.25% 2035                | 1,485,000 | 2,105       | 1.34       |
| Services - 2.37% (2.99%)                 |           |             |            |
| University of Cambridge 3.75% 2052       | 274,000   | 419         | 0.27       |
| University of Leeds 3.125% 2050          | 870,000   | 1,091       | 0.69       |
| Waste Management 4.15% 2049              | 1,700,000 | 1,574       | 1.00       |
| Wellcome Trust 2.517% 2118               | 560,000   | 642         | 0.41       |
| Sovereign - 3.79% (0.96%)                |           |             |            |
| UK Treasury 1.75% 22/01/2049             | 2,720,000 | 3,360       | 2.14       |
| UK Treasury 4.75% 07/12/2030             | 1,190,000 | 1,738       | 1.11       |
| UK Treasury 4.75% 07/12/2038             | 495,941   | 844         | 0.54       |
| Supranational - 5.35% (9.22%)            |           |             |            |
| EIB 4.5% 2044                            | 2,220,000 | 3,721       | 2.37       |
| EIB 6% 2028                              | 1,800,000 | 2,567       | 1.63       |
| IBRD 5.75% 2032                          | 1,355,000 | 2,115       | 1.35       |
| Technology & Electronics - 3.83% (2.75%) |           |             |            |
| Apple 4.375% 2045                        | 1,600,000 | 1,640       | 1.04       |
| Booking Holdings 3.6% 2026               | 1,480,000 | 1,175       | 0.75       |
| Corning 5.45% 2079                       | 1,100,000 | 936         | 0.60       |
| Fidelity Information Services 3.36% 2031 | 2,200,000 | 2,265       | 1.44       |
| Telecommunications - 5.86% (6.07%)       |           |             |            |
| AT&T 5.3% 2058                           | 1,500,000 | 1,450       | 0.92       |
| AT&T 5.35% 2040                          | 449,000   | 418         | 0.27       |
| Bell Canada 4.75% 2044                   | 2,794,000 | 1,771       | 1.13       |
| KPN 5.75% 2029                           | 1,105,000 | 1,306       | 0.83       |
| KT CORP 2.625% 2022                      | 690,000   | 568         | 0.36       |
| Orange SA 5.375% 2050                    | 550,000   | 804         | 0.51       |
| Orange SA 8.5% 2031                      | 1,805,000 | 2,209       | 1.41       |
| Vodafone 4.875% 2025/78                  | 700,000   | 678         | 0.43       |
|  |           |             |            |

| Stock description                           | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|---|-----------|-------------|------------|
|   |           | value £'000 | net assets |
|   |           |             |            |
| Transportation - 1.69% (0.98%)              |           |             |            |
| Manchester Airport 2.875% 2039              | 1,668,000 | 1,503       | 0.96       |
| National Express Group 2.375% 2028          | 1,300,000 | 1,148       | 0.73       |
| Utilities - 14.45% (14.16%)                 |           |             |            |
| Centrica 7% 2033                            | 1,050,000 | 1,465       | 0.93       |
| E.ON 5.875% 2037                            | 300,000   | 415         | 0.26       |
| E.ON 6.75% 2039                             | 950,000   | 1,452       | 0.93       |
| Eastern Power Network 6.25% 2036            | 350,000   | 519         | 0.33       |
| EDF 5.5% 2037                               | 700,000   | 924         | 0.59       |
| EDF 5.5% 2041                               | 1,000,000 | 1,366       | 0.87       |
| EDF 5.875% 2029 Perp                        | 500,000   | 490         | 0.31       |
| EDF 6% 2114                                 | 600,000   | 890         | 0.57       |
| EDF 6% 2114 (144A)                          | 690,000   | 710         | 0.45       |
| Enel 5.75% 2040                             | 870,000   | 1,134       | 0.72       |
| Enel 6.8% 2037 (144A)                       | 1,230,000 | 1,192       | 0.76       |
| Engie 7% 2028                               | 750,000   | 1,042       | 0.66       |
| Northern Powergrid 2.25% 2059               | 864,000   | 827         | 0.53       |
| Northern Powergrid 2.5% 2025                | 2,500,000 | 2,587       | 1.65       |
| Orsted 1.75% 3019                           | 192,000   | 150         | 0.10       |
| Orsted 2.5% 2033                            | 1,101,000 | 1,111       | 0.71       |
| Orsted 4.875% 2032                          | 1,360,000 | 1,703       | 1.08       |
| RWE 6.125% 2039                             | 1,250,000 | 1,805       | 1.15       |
| Severn Trent 2.75% 2031                     | 620,000   | 648         | 0.41       |
| TXU Eastern Funding 7.25% 2030 <sup>1</sup> | 2,343,000 | -           | 0.00       |
| Western Power Dist East 1.75% 2031          | 1,380,000 | 1,255       | 0.80       |
| Western Power Dist West 5.75% 2032          | 780,000   | 1,000       | 0.64       |
| Derivatives - 1.15% (0.26%)                 |           |             |            |
| Forward currency contracts (see Table 1)    |           | 1,843       | 1.17       |
| Futures contracts (see Table 2)             |           | -           | 0.00       |
| Credit default swap contracts (see Table 3) |           | (31)        | (0.02)     |
| Portfolio of investments                    |           | 159,735     | 101.7      |

| Stock description                       | Holding | Market      | % of total |
|---|---------|-------------|------------|
| ·                                       |         | value £'000 | net assets |
| Net other liabilities - (1.74%) (5.50%) |         | (2,732)     | (1.74)     |
| Net assets                              |         | 157,003     | 100.00     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The issuer of this bond was in administration at the period end, therefore the bond has been valued at the Investment Adviser's valuation.

Please note: figures are based on market values rather than economic exposure.

Unless otherwise stated the above holdings are in fixed interest securities.

Figures in brackets in the investment category headings refer to 30 September 2019.

Table 1: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts

|  |            |     |            |      |             | Unrealised     |            |  |  |
|--|------------|-----|------------|------|-------------|----------------|------------|--|--|
|  |            |     |            |      |             | gains/(losses) | % of total |  |  |
| Counterparty   | Settlement | Buy | Buy Amount | Sell | Sell Amount | £'000          | net assets |  |  |
| HSBC   | 14/05/20   | GBP | 3,268,282  | EUR  | 3,590,000   | 89             | 0.06       |  |  |
| National Australia Bank                                      | 14/05/20   | GBP | 32,053,738 | USD  | 37,720,000  | 1,658          | 1.05       |  |  |
| Royal Bank of Canada   | 14/05/20   | GBP | 2,021,749  | CAD  | 3,400,000   | 96             | 0.06       |  |  |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts |            |     |            |      | 1,843       | 1.17           |            |  |  |

Table 2: Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts

|  |          |          | Unrealised     |            |
|--|----------|----------|----------------|------------|
|  |          |          | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Futures  | Maturity | Notional | £'000          | net assets |
| Canada 10 Year Bond Future June 2020           | 30/06/20 | (42)     | -              | 0.00       |
| Long Gilt Future 10 Year June 2020             | 30/06/20 | 28       | -              | 0.00       |
| US 10 Year Note Future June 2020               | 30/06/20 | (52)     | -              | 0.00       |
| US 5 Year Note June 2020                       | 06/07/20 | (60)     | -              | 0.00       |
| US Long Bond (CBT) June 2020                   | 30/06/20 | (48)     | -              | 0.00       |
| US Ultra 10 Year Note Future June 2020         | 30/06/20 | 11       | -              | 0.00       |
| US Ultra Long (CBT) June 2020                  | 30/06/20 | (28)     | -              | 0.00       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts |          |          | -              | 0.00       |

#### Table 3: Credit default swap contracts

| Credit             |             |          |                |            |         | Market | % of       |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|----------------|------------|---------|--------|------------|
| Default            |             |          |                |            |         | Value  | total      |
| Swaps              | Maturity    | Currency | Direction      | Notional   | Premium | £,000  | net assets |
| Barclays Bank      | 20/06/25    | EUR      | Buy protection | 21,000,000 | 1%      | (31)   | (0.02)     |
| Credit default swa | p contracts |          |                |            |         | (31)   | (0.02)     |

# **Fund Information**

| Fund  | and   | Share |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Infor | matio | on    |

|  | 31.03.20   | 30.09.19   | 30.09.18   | 30.09.17   |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total net asset value of scheme property (£'000) | 157,003    | 184,437    | 168,504    | 201,248    |
| Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator <sup>1</sup> | 3          | 4          | 4          | 4          |
| Net asset value per share (pence)                |            |            |            |            |
| A Income   | 96.27      | 102.82     | 96.11      | 98.48      |
| B Accumulation                                   | 218.58     | 230.48     | 209.07     | 207.95     |
| B Income   | 100.10     | 106.78     | 99.81      | 102.27     |
| C Accumulation                                   | 220.77     | 232.50     | 210.37     | 208.72     |
| C Income   | 104.62     | 110.05     | 102.85     | 105.39     |
| Number of shares in issue                        |            |            |            |            |
| A Income   | 1,023,369  | 1,234,403  | 1,625,865  | 2,629,259  |
| B Accumulation                                   | 11,293,920 | 14,241,659 | 12,647,187 | 12,242,810 |
| B Income   | 56,801,970 | 55,220,720 | 58,158,113 | 80,725,890 |
| C Accumulation                                   | 33,732,783 | 38,055,939 | 37,904,456 | 42,508,644 |
| C Income   | 100        | 2,633,775  | 2,633,775  | 1,818,775  |

Annual Income Record

|  | Period to 31.03.20 | Year to 30.09.19 | Year to 30.09.18 | Year to 30.09.17 |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | (pence)            | (pence)          | (pence)          | (pence)          |
| Income per share (financial period) <sup>2</sup> |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| A Income   | 0.90               | 2.26             | 2.18             | 2.31             |
| B Accumulation                                   | 2.50               | 6.60             | 6.24             | 6.33             |
| B Income   | 1.20               | 3.14             | 3.03             | 3.18             |
| C Accumulation                                   | 2.60               | 7.20             | 6.79             | 6.86             |
| C Income   | 1.30               | 3.50             | 3.39             | 3.54             |

### Fund Information cont.

Yearly Highest and Lowest Prices

|                            | Period to 31.03.20 (pence) | Year to 30.09.19 (pence) | Year to 30.09.18 (pence) | Year to 30.09.17 (pence) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Highest (financial period) |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| A Income                   | 105.2                      | 104.7                    | 101.1                    | 102.3                    |
| B Accumulation             | 237.5                      | 232.5                    | 213.9                    | 214.1                    |
| B Income                   | 109.4                      | 109.1                    | 105.2                    | 106.5                    |
| C Accumulation             | 239.8                      | 234.5                    | 214.8                    | 214.8                    |
| C Income                   | 112.8                      | 112.6                    | 108.5                    | 109.9                    |
| Lowest (financial period)  |                            |                          |                          |                          |
| A Income                   | 91.16                      | 95.11                    | 96.56                    | 96.10                    |
| B Accumulation             | 206.0                      | 207.1                    | 207.1                    | 197.1                    |
| B Income                   | 94.89                      | 98.85                    | 100.6                    | 99.87                    |
| C Accumulation             | 208.0                      | 208.5                    | 208.1                    | 197.4                    |
| C Income                   | 97.88                      | 101.9                    | 103.9                    | 102.9                    |
|                            |                            |                          |                          |                          |

Ongoing Charges Figures

|                                      | 31.03.20 | 30.09.19 | 30.09.18 | 30.09.17 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                      | (%)      | (%)      | (%)      | (%)      |
| Ongoing Charges Figures <sup>3</sup> |          |          |          |          |
| A Income                             | 1.03     | 1.03     | 1.03     | 1.03     |
| B Accumulation                       | 0.27     | 0.27     | 0.28     | 0.28     |
| B Income                             | 0.28     | 0.27     | 0.28     | 0.28     |
| C Accumulation                       | 0.02     | 0.02     | 0.03     | 0.03     |
| C Income                             | 0.01     | 0.02     | 0.03     | 0.03     |

You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

<sup>1</sup>The Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. Further information is included in the Risk and Reward Profile section of the Fund's interim report.

<sup>2</sup>With effect from 1 October 2019, all permitted expenses of the Fund were allocated to capital for distribution purposes.

<sup>3</sup>The Ongoing Charges Figure is based on the expenses for the financial period and may vary from year to year. It excludes the cost of buying and selling assets for the Fund although custodian transaction costs are included. A further explanation of charges and costs relating to the Fund can be obtained by contacting Client Relations.

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited)

#### Statement of Total Return for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |          | 31 March 2019 |         |
|--|---------------|----------|---------------|---------|
|  | £'000         | £'000    | £'000         | £'000   |
| Income   |               |          |               |         |
| Net capital gains/(losses)   |               | (11,859) |               | 3,903   |
| Revenue  | 2,779         |          | 2,888         |         |
| Expenses   | (134)         |          | (127)         |         |
| Net revenue before taxation  | 2,645         |          | 2,761         |         |
| Taxation   | -             |          | -             |         |
| Net revenue after taxation   |               | 2,645    |               | 2,761   |
| Total return before distributions  |               | (9,214)  |               | 6,664   |
| Distributions  |               | (2,088)  |               | (2,069) |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (11,302) |               | 4,595   |

#### Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |          | 31 March 2 | 2019    |
|--|---------------|----------|------------|---------|
|  | €,000         | £'000    | £'000      | £'000   |
| Opening net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 184,437  |            | 168,504 |
| Amounts receivable on issue of shares  | 7,310         |          | 7,523      |         |
| Amounts payable on cancellation of shares                                    | (24,702)      |          | (8,227)    |         |
|  |               | (17,392) |            | (704)   |
| Dilution adjustment  |               | 44       |            | 32      |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (11,302) |            | 4,595   |
| Retained distributions on accumulation shares                                |               | 1,216    |            | 1,357   |
| Closing net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 157,003  |            | 173,784 |

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited) cont.

#### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

|   | 31 March 2020 | 30 September 2019 |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
|   | £'000         | £'000             |
| Assets:                                 |               |                   |
| Fixed assets:                           |               |                   |
| Investments                             | 159,766       | 174,301           |
| Current assets:                         |               |                   |
| Debtors                                 | 11,708        | 2,799             |
| Cash and bank balances                  | 3,440         | 8,791             |
| Total assets                            | 174,914       | 185,891           |
| Liabilities:                            |               |                   |
| Investment liabilities                  | (31)          | (15)              |
| Creditors:                              |               |                   |
| Distributions payable                   | (346)         | (792)             |
| Other creditors                         | (17,534)      | (647)             |
| Total liabilities                       | (17,911)      | (1,454)           |
| Net assets attributable to shareholders | 157,003       | 184,437           |

#### **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association in May 2014.

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those in the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 and are described in those annual financial statements.

### **BAILLIE GIFFORD**

# Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Long Bond Fund

### a sub-fund of Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited) for the six months ended 31 March 2020





### Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Long Bond Fund

#### **Investment Objective**

The Fund aims to outperform (after deduction of costs) the ICE Bank of America Sterling Non-Gilt over 10 Years Index by 0.5% per annum over rolling three-year periods.

#### **Investment Policy**

The Fund will invest at least 80% in investment grade bonds issued by corporate issuers, public bodies and supranationals. The Fund may also invest in other bonds including sub-investment grade bonds and government bonds. The Fund will invest in bonds denominated in sterling or hedged back to sterling. Currency forwards and derivatives, which are types of financial contracts, are used for both investment purposes and in the management of risk. The Fund will be actively managed and is not constrained by the index.

#### Risk and Reward Profile

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the Risk and Reward Indicator.

| Typically<br>lower ris | lower rev | wards, |   | Typically higher rewa |   | rewards,<br>igher risk |
|------------------------|-----------|--------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1                      | 2         | 3      | 4 | 5                     | 6 | 7                      |

Please note that even the lowest risk class can lose you money and that extreme adverse market circumstances can mean you suffer severe losses in all cases.

The Fund is classified in the category above because it invests in corporate bonds which generally provide higher rewards and higher risks than other investments such as government bonds and cash.

The indicator does not take into account the following relevant material risks:

Investment markets can go down as well as up and market conditions can change rapidly. The value of an investment in the Fund, and any income from it, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested.

Custody of assets involves a risk of loss if the custodian becomes insolvent or breaches duties of care

Bonds issued by companies and governments may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates, expectations of inflation and a decline in the creditworthiness of the bond issuer. The issuers of bonds in which the Fund invests may not be able to pay the bond income as promised or could fail to repay the capital amount.

The Fund's concentrated portfolio relative to similar funds may result in large movements in the share price in the short term.

Derivatives may be used to obtain, increase or reduce exposure to assets and may result in the Fund being leveraged. This may result in greater movements (down or up) in the price of shares in the Fund. It is not our intention that the use of derivatives will significantly alter the overall risk profile of the Fund.

In certain circumstances it can be difficult to buy or sell the Fund's holdings and even small purchases or sales can cause their prices to move significantly, affecting the value of the Fund and the price of shares in the Fund.

Market values for securities which are difficult to trade may not be readily available, and there can be no assurance that any value assigned to them will reflect the price the Fund might receive upon their sale

The process for the UK to exit the European Union introduces elements of political uncertainty and may have practical consequences for the Fund. Developments will be closely monitored.

### Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Long Bond Fund cont.

Infectious viruses may pose significant threats to human health and may be highly disruptive to global economies and markets. The economic and market disruptions caused by infectious viruses could impact the value of the investments of the Fund and the distributions paid by the Fund to shareholders.

Further details of the risks associated with investing in the Fund can be found in the Prospectus which is available by contacting Client Relations or visiting our website.

#### Fees Charged to Capital

For distribution purposes, all expenses of the Fund are allocated to capital. This will reduce the capital value of the Fund.

### Investment Report

#### Past Performance



- Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Long Bond Fund B Income Shares¹
- ■ICE Bank of America Sterling Non-Gilt Over 10 Years Index + 0.5%2
- ■ICE Bank of America Sterling Non-Gilt Over 10 Years Index²

The performance figures shown in this graph are for Class B Income Shares. Performance figures reflect the ACD's annual fee of 0.25%, but exclude any initial charge paid. Performance figures for the other share classes in issue can be obtained by contacting Client Relations. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

For the six months to 31 March 2020 the return on B Income Shares was -5.8%<sup>3</sup> compared to the return on the ICE Bank of America Sterling Non-Gilt over 10 Years Index (the 'Index') of -5.7%<sup>2</sup> and the Fund's target (the 'target return') of the Index +0.5% of -5.5%<sup>2</sup>. The investment objective of the Fund is to outperform the Index by 0.5% per annum over rolling three-year periods. As such, we believe that shorter-term performance measurements are of limited relevance in assessing investment ability. The annualised three-year return on B Income Shares was 3.7%<sup>3</sup> compared to the return on the Index of 3.4%<sup>2</sup> and the target return of 3.9%<sup>2</sup>.

The outbreak of coronavirus (Covid-19) and its impact on economic growth had a material effect on corporate bond markets, particularly towards the end of the period. While UK government bond yields fell as the crisis developed, the additional yield spread offered by long-dated investment grade bonds rose markedly. In aggregate, individual bond selection made a positive contribution to relative performance with the specific holdings in the Fund typically producing better returns than similar bonds in the Index. The Fund holds a small number of high yield bonds – around 2% of the portfolio

– and these had a negative impact on performance as the price of high yield bonds fell dramatically. We remain confident these are fundamentally sound businesses which should add value over the long term. The Fund also holds a number of investment grade bonds which are denominated in US dollars, with the currency exposure hedged back to sterling. The US corporate bond market has been more affected than the UK and in the short term these positions have hurt performance.

During the period we purchased some credit protection for the portfolio through a credit default swap (CDS). This CDS contract is based on the performance of a broad index of corporate bonds, and the Fund benefits if the additional yield spread on that index rises. This proved to be beneficial for the Fund, during March in particular. Despite some short-term underperformance due to an indiscriminate sell-off across corporate bond markets, we believe this and other changes to the portfolio will improve longer-term performance. We focus on the long-term resilience of companies held by the Fund. We believe the portfolio was robust going into this crisis but we will continue to carefully assess the prospects for individual bonds and will look to add where

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Source: FE, 10am dealing prices, income reinvested, after charges. <sup>2</sup>Source: FE and relevant underlying index provider, total return. The target return outperformance is compound daily therefore the Index return plus the outperformance will not equal the target return. Please see Disclaimer on page 96. <sup>3</sup>Source: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, closing mid prices, income reinvested, after charges. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

### Investment Report cont.

opportunities have arisen. We are reasonably positive on the outlook for corporate bonds, especially the investment grade sector. Prices have fallen significantly, and central banks have begun to buy select assets while many companies have also been given access to short-term financing. We remain cautious in the near term, expecting more volatility, but will look for select opportunities to add to bonds with attractive valuations on a longer-term horizon.

Baillie Gifford & Co, 29 April 2020

#### Coronavirus update

It is important during times of extreme market volatility to remember that investing is a long-term activity. History indicates that acting hastily in the midst of a crisis is typically unhelpful, and we would encourage all investors to step back and maintain perspective. When we invest on behalf of clients, it is with a three-year view of the opportunities that a company has to grow. Though markets have been very volatile for weeks, the types of companies we generally favour – those with growing opportunities, competitive advantages and strong balance sheets – are not only well placed to survive short-term pressures, but to thrive when the current crisis is over. We have therefore made few changes to client portfolios. Most of our thinking now has turned to the likely acceleration of trends that were already in place pre-crisis, and the associated long-term investment opportunities. Many of the companies in which we invest for clients have shown their focus on social responsibility by becoming involved in efforts to find treatments for Covid-19, producing much-needed medical supplies, and supporting their own staff rather than focusing relentlessly on short-term profitability. We have encouraged them to do so in the belief that those which act responsibly now will see the benefit in happier times.

# Principal Bond Holdings as at 31 March 2020

| Investment                            | Percentage of |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                       | total Fund    |
| Network Rail 4.75% 2035               | 3.03          |
| UK Treasury 1.75% 22/01/2049          | 2.63          |
| Aster 4.5% 2043                       | 1.88          |
| RWE 6.125% 2039                       | 1.85          |
| Tesco Property Finance 6 5.4111% 2044 | 1.76          |
| Welltower 4.5% 2034                   | 1.69          |
| Freshwater Finance 5.182% 2035        | 1.68          |
| Sovereign Housing Capital 4.768% 2043 | 1.66          |
| SNCF Reseau 5.25% 2035                | 1.62          |
| Apple 4.375% 2045                     | 1.57          |

# Material Portfolio Changes for the six months ended 31 March 2020

| Largest Purchases                     | Cost  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| <u> </u>                              | £'000 |
|                                       | 2 000 |
| UK Treasury 1.75% 22/01/2049          | 4,453 |
| Tesco Property Finance 6 5.4111% 2044 | 3,446 |
| Longhurst Libra 3.25% 2043            | 2,931 |
| Northern Powergrid 2.25% 2059         | 2,004 |
| Orange SA 5.375% 2050                 | 1,983 |
| Berkshire Hathaway 2.625% 2059        | 1,976 |
| Tesco Property Finance 5.661% 2041    | 1,948 |
| CPI Property 2.75% 2028               | 1,524 |
| Western Power Dist East 6.25% 2040    | 1,513 |
| AT&T 4.875% 2044                      | 1,473 |

| Largest Sales                 | Proceeds |
|-------------------------------|----------|
|                               | £,000    |
| Dwr Cymru 6.015% 2028         | 3,375    |
| IBRD 5.75% 2032               | 2,724    |
| KFW 5.75% 2032                | 2,600    |
| Channel Link 3.043% 2029 (A5) | 2,480    |
| EIB 4.625% 2054               | 2,419    |
| Anheuser-Busch 2.25% 2029     | 2,379    |
| Verisk Analytic 4.125% 2029   | 2,294    |
| LCR Finance 5.1% 2051         | 2,021    |
| EIB 5% 2039                   | 1,977    |
| Severn Trent 2.75% 2031       | 1,915    |

The largest purchases and sales of bonds have been shown.

# Portfolio Statement as at 31 March 2020

| Stock description                         | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|---|-----------|-------------|------------|
|   |           | value £'000 | net assets |
| Agency - 2.30% (2.03%)                    |           |             |            |
| SNCF Reseau 4.83% 2060                    | 260,000   | 496         | 0.27       |
| SNCF Reseau 5.25% 2005                    | 1,977,000 | 2,962       | 1.62       |
| Temasek 1.25% 2049                        | 850,000   | 760         | 0.41       |
|   | 000,000   |             |            |
| Asset Backed - 5.63% (8.05%)              |           |             |            |
| Dignity Finance 4.6956% 2049              | 1,910,000 | 1,528       | 0.83       |
| Freshwater Finance 5.182% 2035            | 2,261,000 | 3,074       | 1.68       |
| Lunar Funding 1 5.75% 2033                | 1,658,000 | 2,379       | 1.30       |
| Yorkshire Water 2.75% 2041                | 800,000   | 830         | 0.45       |
| Yorkshire Water 5.5% 2037                 | 1,700,000 | 2,514       | 1.37       |
| Banking - 10.04% (11.62%)                 |           |             |            |
| Citigroup 8.125% 2039                     | 2,165,000 | 2,739       | 1.50       |
| Erste Group Bank AG 6.5% 2024 Perp        | 600,000   | 499         | 0.27       |
| HSBC 6.25% 2041                           | 630,000   | 771         | 0.42       |
| HSBC 6.5% 2028 Perp                       | 900,000   | 679         | 0.37       |
| HSBC Bank 5.844% 2031 Perp                | 800,000   | 1,059       | 0.58       |
| HSBC Holdings 6% 2040                     | 1,170,000 | 1,343       | 0.73       |
| HSBC Holdings 7% 2038                     | 1,450,000 | 1,818       | 0.99       |
| ING Group 6.875% 2022 Perp                | 200,000   | 140         | 0.08       |
| Rabobank 4.625% Perp                      | 600,000   | 463         | 0.25       |
| Rabobank 6.91% 2038 Perp                  | 1,100,000 | 1,637       | 0.89       |
| Rabobank Groep 5.375% 2060                | 400,000   | 700         | 0.38       |
| Rabobank Group 4% 2029                    | 1,600,000 | 1,270       | 0.69       |
| RBS 4.892% 2029                           | 2,600,000 | 2,219       | 1.21       |
| Standard Chartered Bank 5.125% 2034       | 1,063,000 | 1,121       | 0.61       |
| Yorkshire Building Society 3.375% 2027/28 | 2,140,000 | 1,956       | 1.07       |
| Basic Industry - 0.20% (0.74%)            |           |             |            |
| LafargeHolcim 3% 2032                     | 400,000   | 364         | 0.20       |
| Capital Goods - 2.05% (3.05%)             |           |             |            |
| DS Smith 2.875% 2029                      | 990,000   | 925         | 0.50       |
| GE Capital 5.375% 2040                    | 700,000   | 779         | 0.43       |

| 700,000<br>900,000 | value £'000<br>807<br>1,250  | 0.44<br>0.68  |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 900,000            |  |   |
| 900,000            |  |   |
|                    | 1,250  | 0.68  |
| 1 275 000          |  |   |
| 1 275 000          |  |   |
| 1,373,000          | 1,400  | 0.76  |
| 2,385,000          | 2,045  | 1.11  |
| 1,500,000          | 1,815  | 0.99  |
| 2,800,000          | 3,222  | 1.76  |
|                    |  |   |
| 1,600,000          | 1,327  | 0.73  |
| 1,600,000          | 1,231  | 0.67  |
|                    |  |   |
| 1,700,000          | 1,756  | 0.96  |
| 800,000            | 570  | 0.31  |
| 1,419,000          | 1,413  | 0.77  |
| 1,070,000          | 1,039  | 0.56  |
| 1,717,000          | 1,977  | 1.08  |
|                    |  |   |
| 1,800,000          | 2,870  | 1.57  |
| 1,200,000          | 1,857  | 1.01  |
| 1,300,000          | 2,598  | 1.42  |
| 3,641,000          | 5,560  | 3.03  |
|                    |  |   |
| 1,300,000          | 1,487  | 0.81  |
| 716,000            | 934  | 0.51  |
| 1,000,000          | 1,455  | 0.79  |
| 1,200,000          | 1,220  | 0.67  |
|                    | 1,500,000 2,800,000  1,600,000  1,600,000  1,700,000 800,000 1,419,000 1,070,000 1,717,000  1,800,000 1,200,000 1,300,000 3,641,000  1,300,000 716,000 1,000,000 | 2,385,000       2,045         1,500,000       1,815         2,800,000       3,222         1,600,000       1,327         1,600,000       1,756         800,000       570         1,419,000       1,413         1,070,000       1,977         1,800,000       2,870         1,200,000       1,857         1,300,000       2,598         3,641,000       5,560         1,300,000       1,487         716,000       934         1,000,000       1,455 |

| Stock description                     | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
|                                       |           | value £'000 | net assets |
|                                       |           |             |            |
| Insurance - 1.55% (1.12%)             |           |             |            |
| Legal & General 5.5% 2044/64          | 2,400,000 | 2,312       | 1.26       |
| Pension Insurance 5.625% 2030         | 225,000   | 226         | 0.12       |
| Phoenix Life 6.625% 2025              | 303,000   | 308         | 0.17       |
| Media - 0.77% (0.00%)                 |           |             |            |
| Walt Disney 4.125% 2041               | 1,500,000 | 1,416       | 0.77       |
| Real Estate - 12.30% (9.40%)          |           |             |            |
| Annington Funding 3.685% 2034         | 1,580,000 | 1,595       | 0.87       |
| Aster 4.5% 2043                       | 2,538,000 | 3,438       | 1.88       |
| British Land 5.264% 2035 (Bearer)     | 1,760,000 | 2,272       | 1.24       |
| CPI Property 2.75% 2028               | 1,500,000 | 1,352       | 0.74       |
| Housing & Care 3.288% 2049            | 2,400,000 | 2,717       | 1.48       |
| Karbon 3.375% 2047                    | 2,000,000 | 2,373       | 1.29       |
| Longhurst Libra 3.25% 2043            | 2,500,000 | 2,666       | 1.45       |
| Sovereign Housing Capital 4.768% 2043 | 2,141,000 | 3,039       | 1.66       |
| Welltower 4.5% 2034                   | 2,800,000 | 3,100       | 1.69       |
| Retail - 1.81% (0.76%)                |           |             |            |
| LVMH 0.375% 2031                      | 1,300,000 | 1,073       | 0.59       |
| Walmart 4.875% 2039                   | 600,000   | 844         | 0.46       |
| Walmart Stores 5.25% 2035             | 990,000   | 1,403       | 0.76       |
| Services - 3.64% (4.24%)              |           |             |            |
| University of Cambridge 3.75% 2052    | 712,000   | 1,089       | 0.59       |
| University of Leeds 3.125% 2050       | 1,676,000 | 2,101       | 1.15       |
| University of Oxford 2.544% 2117      | 530,000   | 619         | 0.34       |
| Waste Management 4.15% 2049           | 2,100,000 | 1,945       | 1.06       |
| Wellcome Trust 2.517% 2118            | 800,000   | 917         | 0.50       |
| Sovereign - 2.93% (0.42%)             |           |             |            |
| UK Treasury 1.75% 22/01/2049          | 3,900,000 | 4,818       | 2.63       |

| Stock description                        | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------|
|  |           | value £'000 | net assets |
| UK Treasury 4% 22/01/2060                | 258,000   | 552         | 0.30       |
| Supranational - 0.82% (4.46%)            |           |             |            |
| EIB 5% 2039                              | 900,000   | 1,510       | 0.82       |
| Technology & Electronics - 3.56% (2.88%) |           |             |            |
| Apple 4.375% 2045                        | 2,810,000 | 2,881       | 1.57       |
| Corning 5.45% 2079                       | 1,500,000 | 1,277       | 0.69       |
| Fidelity Information Services 3.36% 2031 | 2,310,000 | 2,378       | 1.30       |
| Telecommunications - 10.14% (9.26%)      |           |             |            |
| AT&T 4.875% 2044                         | 1,100,000 | 1,295       | 0.71       |
| AT&T 5.3% 2058                           | 2,010,000 | 1,943       | 1.06       |
| AT&T 5.35% 2040                          | 1,099,000 | 1,023       | 0.56       |
| AT&T 7% 2040                             | 1,850,000 | 2,720       | 1.48       |
| Bell Canada 4.75% 2044                   | 2,490,000 | 1,578       | 0.86       |
| British Telecom 3.125% 2031              | 1,460,000 | 1,447       | 0.79       |
| BT Group 3.625% 2047                     | 1,040,000 | 1,023       | 0.56       |
| France Telecom 5.625% 2034               | 1,067,000 | 1,410       | 0.77       |
| KPN 5.75% 2029                           | 870,000   | 1,029       | 0.56       |
| Orange SA 5.375% 2050                    | 1,200,000 | 1,753       | 0.96       |
| Orange SA 8.5% 2031                      | 1,130,000 | 1,383       | 0.75       |
| Vodafone 3% 2056                         | 1,470,000 | 1,308       | 0.71       |
| Vodafone 4.875% 2025/78                  | 700,000   | 678         | 0.37       |
| Transportation - 1.08% (0.92%)           |           |             |            |
| Manchester Airport 2.875% 2039           | 2,200,000 | 1,982       | 1.08       |
| Utilities - 16.69% (16.57%)              |           |             |            |
| Centrica 4.25% 2044                      | 1,853,000 | 2,032       | 1.11       |
| E.ON 5.875% 2037                         | 700,000   | 969         | 0.53       |
| E.ON 6.75% 2039                          | 1,700,000 | 2,599       | 1.42       |
| EDF 5.125% 2050                          | 950,000   | 1,313       | 0.71       |
| EDF 5.5% 2037                            | 700,000   | 924         | 0.50       |
| EDF 5.5% 2041                            | 1,600,000 | 2,185       | 1.19       |

| Stock description                           | Holding   | Market      | % of total |
|---|-----------|-------------|------------|
|   |           | value £'000 | net assets |
|   |           |             |            |
| EDF 5.875% 2029 Perp                        | 900,000   | 882         | 0.48       |
| EDF 6% 2114                                 | 1,300,000 | 1,927       | 1.05       |
| EDF 6% 2114 (144A)                          | 610,000   | 627         | 0.34       |
| Enel 5.75% 2040                             | 1,446,000 | 1,884       | 1.03       |
| Engie SA 5% 2060                            | 650,000   | 1,094       | 0.60       |
| National Grid 5.625% 2025/73                | 800,000   | 837         | 0.46       |
| Northern Powergrid 2.25% 2059               | 1,860,000 | 1,780       | 0.97       |
| Orsted 1.75% 3019                           | 192,000   | 150         | 0.08       |
| Orsted 2.5% 2033                            | 2,028,000 | 2,046       | 1.11       |
| Orsted 5.75% 2040                           | 1,125,000 | 1,657       | 0.90       |
| RWE 6.125% 2039                             | 2,350,000 | 3,394       | 1.85       |
| Severn Trent 2.75% 2031                     | 590,000   | 617         | 0.34       |
| TXU Eastern Funding 7.25% 2030 <sup>1</sup> | 187,000   | -           | 0.00       |
| Western Power Dist East 6.25% 2040          | 900,000   | 1,353       | 0.74       |
| Western Power Dist West 5.75% 2032          | 1,830,000 | 2,347       | 1.28       |
| Derivatives - 1.40% (1.06%)                 |           |             |            |
| Forward currency contracts (see Table 1)    |           | 1,486       | 0.81       |
| Futures contracts (see Table 2)             |           | -           | 0.00       |
| Interest rate swaps contracts (see Table 3) |           | 1,093       | 0.59       |
| Credit default swap contracts (see Table 4) |           | (34)        | (0.02)     |
|   |           |             |            |
| Portfolio of investments                    |           | 176,813     | 96.40      |
| Net other assets - 3.58% (1.54%)            |           | 6,593       | 3.60       |
| Net assets                                  |           | 183,406     | 100.00     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The issuer of this bond was in administration at the period end, therefore the bond has been valued at the Investment Adviser's valuation.

Please note: figures are based on market values rather than economic exposure.

Unless otherwise stated the above holdings are in fixed interest securities.

Figures in brackets in the investment category headings refer to 30 September 2019.

Table 1: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts

|  |            |     |            |      |             | Unrealised     |            |
|--|------------|-----|------------|------|-------------|----------------|------------|
|  |            |     |            |      |             | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty   | Settlement | Buy | Buy Amount | Sell | Sell Amount | £'000          | net assets |
| HSBC   | 14/05/20   | GBP | 3,406,341  | EUR  | 3,740,000   | 94             | 0.05       |
| National Australia Bank                                      | 14/05/20   | GBP | 464,501    | EUR  | 510,000     | 13             | 0.01       |
| National Australia Bank                                      | 14/05/20   | GBP | 26,581,093 | USD  | 31,370,000  | 1,302          | 0.71       |
| Royal Bank of Canada   | 14/05/20   | GBP | 1,617,399  | CAD  | 2,720,000   | 77             | 0.04       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts |            |     |            |      |             | 1,486          | 0.81       |

Table 2: Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts

|  | Unrealised |          |                |            |  |
|--|------------|----------|----------------|------------|--|
|  |            |          | gains/(losses) | % of total |  |
| Futures  | Maturity   | Notional | £'000          | net assets |  |
| Canada 10 Year Bond Future June 2020           | 30/06/20   | (45)     | -              | 0.00       |  |
| Euro Buxl 30 Year Bund June 2020               | 10/06/20   | (5)      | -              | 0.00       |  |
| Euro-Bund Future June 2020                     | 10/06/20   | (5)      | -              | 0.00       |  |
| Long Gilt Future 10 Year June 2020             | 30/06/20   | 177      | -              | 0.00       |  |
| US 10 Year Note Future June 2020               | 30/06/20   | (40)     | -              | 0.00       |  |
| US Long Bond (CBT) June 2020                   | 30/06/20   | (82)     | -              | 0.00       |  |
| US Ultra 10 Year Note Future June 2020         | 30/06/20   | 56       | -              | 0.00       |  |
| US Ultra Long (CBT) June 2020                  | 30/06/20   | (40)     | -              | 0.00       |  |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts |            |          | -              | 0.00       |  |

Table 3: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open interest rate swap contracts

|  |     |             |           |                |               | Unrealised     |            |
|--|-----|-------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
|  |     |             |           |                |               | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty   | Ccy | Termination | Notional  | Fund pays      | Fund receives | £'000          | net assets |
| JP Morgan Chase  | GBP | 02/10/43    | 2,880,000 | Overnight Rate | 0.76%         | 277            | 0.15       |
| JP Morgan Chase  | GBP | 24/05/44    | 3,050,000 | Overnight Rate | 1.07%         | 522            | 0.29       |
| JP Morgan Chase  | GBP | 07/06/46    | 2,690,000 | Overnight Rate | 0.76%         | 294            | 0.16       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on open interest rate swap contracts |     |             |           |                | 1,093         | 0.60           |            |

#### Table 4: Credit default swap contracts

| Credit                        |          |          |                |            |         | Market | % of       |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|------------|---------|--------|------------|
| Default                       |          |          |                |            |         | Value  | total      |
| Swaps                         | Maturity | Currency | Direction      | Notional   | Premium | £'000  | net assets |
| Barclays Bank                 | 20/06/25 | EUR      | Buy protection | 23,000,000 | 1%      | (34)   | (0.02)     |
| Credit default swap contracts |          |          |                |            |         | (34)   | (0.02)     |

30.09.17

36,434,112

1,000

## **Fund Information**

| Information |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
|             | Total net asset v<br>scheme property |
|             | Synthetic Risk a                     |

C Accumulation

C Income

**Fund and Share** 

| Total net asset value of scheme property (£'000) | 183,406    | 197,216    | 214,107    | 243,203    |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator <sup>1</sup> | 4          | 4          | 4          | 4          |
| Net asset value per share (pence)                |            |            |            |            |
| B Accumulation                                   | 290.77     | 308.51     | 263.96     | 262.89     |
| B Income   | 132.84     | 142.49     | 125.67     | 129.22     |
| C Accumulation                                   | 293.67     | 311.19     | 265.59     | 263.86     |
| C Income   | 134.84     | 144.53     | 127.47     | 131.06     |
| Number of shares in issue                        |            |            |            |            |
| B Accumulation                                   | 7,681,280  | 9,208,267  | 13,914,229 | 25,027,765 |
| B Income   | 30,476,152 | 35,197,976 | 58,761,165 | 62,896,381 |

30.09.19

29,951,712

17,608,201

30.09.18

30,576,244

17,513,701

31.03.20

32,815,543

17,959,192

**Annual Income** Record

|  | Period to 31.03.20<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.19<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.18 (pence) | Year to 30.09.17<br>(pence) |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income per share (financial period) <sup>2</sup> |                               |                             |                          |                             |
| B Accumulation                                   | 3.20                          | 8.81                        | 8.43                     | 8.40                        |
| B Income   | 1.50                          | 4.16                        | 4.11                     | 4.22                        |
| C Accumulation                                   | 3.60                          | 9.59                        | 9.13                     | 9.06                        |
| C Income   | 1.60                          | 4.57                        | 4.50                     | 4.61                        |

**Yearly Highest** and Lowest **Prices** 

|                            | Period to 31.03.20 | Year to 30.09.19 | Year to 30.09.18 | Year to 30.09.17 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                            | (pence)            | (pence)          | (pence)          | (pence)          |
| Highest (financial period) |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| B Accumulation             | 323.8              | 311.4            | 273.2            | 274.2            |
| B Income                   | 148.8              | 145.8            | 134.3            | 136.6            |
| C Accumulation             | 327.0              | 314.1            | 274.4            | 275.1            |
| C Income                   | 151.0              | 148.1            | 136.3            | 138.8            |
| Lowest (financial period)  |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| B Accumulation             | 265.3              | 259.7            | 260.0            | 244.4            |
| B Income                   | 121.9              | 123.7            | 127.1            | 123.9            |
| C Accumulation             | 268.0              | 261.3            | 261.2            | 244.8            |
| C Income                   | 123.8              | 125.4            | 129.0            | 125.7            |

## Fund Information cont.

Ongoing Charges Figures

| 31.03.20 | 30.09.19                     | 30.09.18  | 30.09.17   |
|----------|------------------------------|---|--|
| (%)      | (%)                          | (%)   | (%)  |
|          |                              |   |  |
| 0.27     | 0.28                         | 0.28  | 0.28   |
| 0.27     | 0.28                         | 0.28  | 0.28   |
| 0.02     | 0.02                         | 0.03  | 0.03   |
| 0.02     | 0.02                         | 0.03  | 0.03   |
|          | 0.27<br>0.27<br>0.27<br>0.02 | 0.27     0.28       0.27     0.28       0.27     0.28       0.02     0.02 | (%)     (%)     (%)       0.27     0.28     0.28       0.27     0.28     0.28       0.02     0.02     0.03 |

You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. Further information is included in the Risk and Reward Profile section of the Fund's interim report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>With effect from 1 October 2019, all permitted expenses of the Fund were allocated to capital for distribution purposes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The Ongoing Charges Figure is based on the expenses for the financial period and may vary from year to year. It excludes the cost of buying and selling assets for the Fund although custodian transaction costs are included. A further explanation of charges and costs relating to the Fund can be obtained by contacting Client Relations.

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited)

## Statement of Total Return for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2 | 31 March 2020 |       | 31 March 2019 |  |
|--|------------|---------------|-------|---------------|--|
|  | £'000      | £'000         | £,000 | £'000         |  |
| Income   |            |               |       |               |  |
| Net capital gains/(losses)   |            | (14,270)      |       | 10,041        |  |
| Revenue  | 3,016      |               | 3,778 |               |  |
| Expenses   | (100)      |               | (154) |               |  |
| Net revenue before taxation  | 2,916      |               | 3,624 |               |  |
| Taxation   | -          |               | -     |               |  |
| Net revenue after taxation   |            | 2,916         |       | 3,624         |  |
| Total return before distributions  |            | (11,354)      |       | 13,665        |  |
| Distributions  |            | (2,138)       |       | (2,644)       |  |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |            | (13,492)      |       | 11,021        |  |

## Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |          | 31 March 2019 |         |
|--|---------------|----------|---------------|---------|
|  | £,000         | £,000    | £'000         | £'000   |
| Opening net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 197,216  |               | 214,107 |
| Amounts receivable on issue of shares  | 14,276        |          | 14,333        |         |
| Amounts payable on cancellation of shares                                    | (16,140)      |          | (7,180)       |         |
|  |               | (1,864)  |               | 7,153   |
| Dilution adjustment  |               | 122      |               | 50      |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (13,492) |               | 11,021  |
| Retained distributions on accumulation shares                                |               | 1,424    |               | 1,537   |
| Closing net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 183,406  |               | 233,868 |

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited) cont.

#### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

|   | 31 March 2020 | 30 September 2019 |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
|   | €'000         | €'000             |
| Assets:                                 |               |                   |
| Fixed assets:                           |               |                   |
| Investments                             | 176,847       | 194,172           |
| Current assets:                         |               |                   |
| Debtors                                 | 9,311         | 3,224             |
| Cash and bank balances                  | 2,746         | 3,840             |
| Total assets                            | 188,904       | 201,236           |
| Liabilities:                            |               |                   |
| Investment liabilities                  | (34)          |                   |
| Creditors:                              |               |                   |
| Bank overdrafts                         | (281)         |                   |
| Distributions payable                   | (373)         | (1,054)           |
| Other creditors                         | (4,810)       | (2,966)           |
| Total liabilities                       | (5,498)       | (4,020)           |
| Net assets attributable to shareholders | 183,406       | 197,216           |

#### **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association in May 2014.

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those in the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 and are described in those annual financial statements.

## **BAILLIE GIFFORD**

# Baillie Gifford Strategic Bond Fund

## a sub-fund of Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC

Interim Report and Financial Statements (Unaudited) for the six months ended 31 March 2020





# Baillie Gifford Strategic Bond Fund

#### **Investment Objective**

The Fund aims to produce monthly income. Opportunities for capital growth are also sought, subject to prevailing market conditions.

#### **Investment Policy**

The Fund will invest at least 80% in a diversified portfolio of (1) investment grade and (2) sub-investment grade bonds, issued by corporate issuers, public bodies and supranationals, and (3) developed market government bonds. The fund may also invest in other bonds. The bonds in which the Fund invests will be denominated in sterling or denominated in other currencies and hedged back to sterling. Currency forwards and derivatives, which are types of financial contracts, are used for both investment purposes and in the management of risk. The Fund will be actively managed through bond selection and strategic asset allocation.

#### **Risk and Reward Profile**

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the Risk and Reward Indicator.

|   | Typically lower rewards,<br>lower risk<br>◆ |   |   | Typica | lly higher<br>hi | rewards,<br>igher risk |
|---|---|---|---|--------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 2   | 3 | 4 | 5      | 6                | 7                      |

Please note that even the lowest risk class can lose you money and that extreme adverse market circumstances can mean you suffer severe losses in all cases.

The Fund is classified in the category above because it invests in corporate bonds which generally provide higher rewards and higher risks than other investments such as government bonds and cash.

The indicator does not take into account the following relevant material risks:

Investment markets can go down as well as up and market conditions can change rapidly. The value of an investment in the Fund, and any income from it, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested.

Custody of assets involves a risk of loss if the custodian becomes insolvent or breaches duties of care.

Bonds issued by companies and governments may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates, expectations of inflation and a decline in the creditworthiness of the bond issuer. The issuers of bonds in which the Fund invests may not be able to pay the bond income as promised or could fail to repay the capital amount.

The Fund's concentrated portfolio relative to similar funds may result in large movements in the share price in the short term.

Derivatives may be used to obtain, increase or reduce exposure to assets and may result in the Fund being leveraged. This may result in greater movements (down or up) in the price of shares in the Fund. It is not our intention that the use of derivatives will significantly alter the overall risk profile of the Fund.

In certain circumstances it can be difficult to buy or sell the Fund's holdings and even small purchases or sales can cause their prices to move significantly, affecting the value of the Fund and the price of shares in the Fund.

Market values for securities which are difficult to trade may not be readily available, and there can be no assurance that any value assigned to them will reflect the price the Fund might receive upon their sale.

# Baillie Gifford Strategic Bond Fund cont.

The process for the UK to exit the European Union introduces elements of political uncertainty and may have practical consequences for the Fund. Developments will be closely monitored.

Infectious viruses may pose significant threats to human health and may be highly disruptive to global economies and markets. The economic and market disruptions caused by infectious viruses could impact the value of the investments of the Fund and the distributions paid by the Fund to shareholders.

Further details of the risks associated with investing in the Fund can be found in the Prospectus which is available by contacting Client Relations or visiting our website.

#### Fees Charged to Capital

For distribution purposes, all expenses of the Fund are allocated to capital. This will reduce the capital value of the Fund.

## Investment Report

#### Past Performance



■ Baillie Gifford Strategic Bond Fund B Income Shares¹

■Investment Association Sterling Strategic Bond sector median<sup>2</sup>

The performance figures shown in this graph are for Class B Income Shares. Performance figures reflect the ACD's annual fee of 0.5%, but exclude any initial charge paid. Performance figures for the other share classes in issue can be obtained by contacting Client Relations. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

For the six months to 31 March 2020 the return on B Income Shares was -8.2%<sup>3</sup>. The investment objective of the Fund is to produce monthly income. Opportunities for capital growth are also sought, subject to prevailing market conditions. During the period monthly income totalling 1.2 pence per share was declared for B Income shares.

Corporate bond markets started this last period strongly as yields fell through January and into February. However, as it emerged that existing coronavirus (Covid-19) measures outside of China were failing to contain the spread of the virus, the corporate bond market sold off very rapidly in March. The pace of sell-off even exceeded that experienced by bond markets during the 2009 Global Financial Crisis. Although the Fund had been progressively taking risk off in 2019 - through reducing high yield and increasing exposure to defensive Utilities - unfortunately we had around 10% of the Fund in companies which were directly impacted by Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Such companies include excellent businesses such as Pure Gym, Whitbread, Cheniere Corpus Christi and Merlin Entertainments. Though bond price moves

have been extreme, most of our exposure to directly impacted sectors are investment grade rated companies, where we believe there is the long-term likelihood of recovery.

The rapid move in corporate bond markets also resulted in a number of high quality, blue chip investment grade companies falling materially in price. These companies have a very low probability of default and typically strong liquidity. Yet long-dated bonds of such businesses have sometimes fallen by double-digit price amounts. For the bonds of some blue-chip companies, we now see a greater long-term return potential than for certain high yield entities. For this reason, we have been progressively shaping the portfolio to benefit from the attractive valuations of investment grade long-dated bonds.

We believe the Covid-19 lockdown will have a material and lasting impact upon the global economy resulting in elevated debt levels for governments, corporates and households. In the absence of herd immunity or a vaccine, there is the risk of periods of release followed by further lockdown. Consequently, we remain prudent and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Source: FE, 10am dealing prices, net income reinvested, after charges. <sup>2</sup>Source: FE and relevant index provider, total return. Please see Disclaimer on page 96 <sup>3</sup>Source: Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, closing mid prices, income reinvested, after charges. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

## Investment Report cont.

very selective. Positively, present market weakness has resulted in the emergence of many great bond opportunities, from very strong companies.

Torcail Stewart & Lesley Dunn, 29 April 2020

#### Coronavirus update

It is important during times of extreme market volatility to remember that investing is a long-term activity. History indicates that acting hastily in the midst of a crisis is typically unhelpful, and we would encourage all investors to step back and maintain perspective. When we invest on behalf of clients, it is with a three-year view of the opportunities that a company has to grow. Though markets have been very volatile for weeks, the types of companies we generally favour – those with growing opportunities, competitive advantages and strong balance sheets – are not only well placed to survive short-term pressures, but to thrive when the current crisis is over. We have therefore made few changes to client portfolios. Most of our thinking now has turned to the likely acceleration of trends that were already in place pre-crisis, and the associated long-term investment opportunities. Many of the companies in which we invest for clients have shown their focus on social responsibility by becoming involved in efforts to find treatments for Covid-19, producing much-needed medical supplies, and supporting their own staff rather than focusing relentlessly on short-term profitability. We have encouraged them to do so in the belief that those which act responsibly now will see the benefit in happier times.

# Principal Bond Holdings as at 31 March 2020

| Investment                   | Percentage of |
|------------------------------|---------------|
|                              | total Fund    |
| KFW 5% 2036                  | 2.84          |
| Netflix 4.625% 2029          | 2.37          |
| IBRD 5.75% 2032              | 2.35          |
| KFW 6% 2028                  | 2.14          |
| National Grid 5.625% 2025/73 | 2.11          |
| Virgin Media 5% 2027         | 2.04          |
| Brown-Forman 2.6% 2028       | 2.00          |
| Whitbread 3.375% 2025        | 1.69          |
| Co-operative Group 7.5% 2026 | 1.66          |
| Global Switch 2.25% 2027     | 1.62          |

# Material Portfolio Changes for the six months ended 31 March 2020

| Largest Purchases                | Cost   |
|----------------------------------|--------|
|                                  | £'000  |
| KFW 5% 2036                      | 19,177 |
| Enviva Partners 6.5% 2026 (144A) | 14,352 |
| Catalent 2.375% 2028             | 14,229 |
| CPI Property 2.75% 2028          | 14,126 |
| Match.com 5.625% 2029 144A       | 13,550 |
| Global Switch 2.25% 2027         | 13,547 |
| Hasbro 3.9% 2029                 | 12,889 |
| Corning 5.45% 2079               | 12,812 |
| KPN 2% 2024 Perp                 | 12,249 |
| LVMH 1.125% 2027                 | 11,125 |

| Largest Sales                            | Proceeds |
|--|----------|
|  | £'000    |
| Bank of America 7% 2028                  | 22,793   |
| Fidelity Information Services 3.36% 2031 | 17,238   |
| Bertelsmann 3.5% 2027/75                 | 15,041   |
| J Sainsbury 6.5% 2020 Perp               | 12,770   |
| Ziggo 4.625% 2025                        | 12,523   |
| Solarcity 1.625% 2019 Convertible        | 12,369   |
| Ubisoft 1.289% 2023                      | 10,919   |
| Catalent 4.875% 2026 (144A)              | 10,168   |
| Hiscox 6.125% 2025/45                    | 9,825    |
| Bell Canada 4.75% 2044                   | 9,586    |

The largest purchases and sales of bonds have been shown.

# Portfolio Statement as at 31 March 2020

| Stock description                                | Holding    | Market      | % of total |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
|  |            | value £'000 | net assets |
| Agency - 0.54% (0.00%)                           |            |             |            |
| Temasek 0.5% 2031                                | 7,400,000  | 6,355       | 0.54       |
| Asset Backed - 1.45% (1.42%)                     |            |             |            |
| Greene King 4.0643% 2035                         | 12,289,000 | 11,443      | 0.98       |
| Mitchells & Butlers 5.574% 15/12/2030            | 4,140,000  | 1,753       | 0.15       |
| Mitchells & Butlers 5.965% 15/12/2023            | 3,944,000  | 893         | 0.07       |
| Mitchells & Butlers 6.469% 15/09/2030            | 2,470,000  | 2,890       | 0.25       |
| Banking - 2.72% (5.41%)                          |            |             |            |
| RBS 3.125% 2027                                  | 6,790,000  | 6,557       | 0.56       |
| RBS 4.892% 2029                                  | 7,335,000  | 6,261       | 0.53       |
| RBS 7.648% 2031 Perp                             | 610,000    | 650         | 0.06       |
| Sainsbury Bank 6% 2022/27                        | 4,820,000  | 4,555       | 0.39       |
| Yorkshire Building Society 3% 2025               | 5,150,000  | 5,070       | 0.43       |
| Yorkshire Building Society 3.375% 2027/28        | 9,570,000  | 8,749       | 0.75       |
| Basic Industry - 3.08% (0.57%)                   |            |             |            |
| Compass Minerals International 6.75% 2027 (144A) | 8,680,000  | 6,319       | 0.54       |
| Enviva Partners 6.5% 2026 (144A)                 | 17,965,000 | 14,126      | 1.21       |
| Italmatch Chemicals FRN 2024                     | 11,404,000 | 7,661       | 0.65       |
| OCI 3.125% 2024                                  | 10,200,000 | 7,913       | 0.68       |
| Capital Goods - 2.56% (3.26%)                    |            |             |            |
| DS Smith 0.875% 2026                             | 7,900,000  | 6,326       | 0.54       |
| DS Smith 2.875% 2029                             | 16,455,000 | 15,374      | 1.31       |
| GE 2.125% 2037                                   | 11,115,000 | 7,550       | 0.65       |
| GE Capital 5.375% 2040                           | 590,000    | 657         | 0.06       |
| Commercial Mortgage Backed - 5.83% (5.27%)       |            |             |            |
| BBC White City Property 5.1202% 2035             | 8,760,000  | 9,753       | 0.83       |
| Delamare (B-1) 6.067% 2029                       | 2,520,000  | 3,119       | 0.27       |
| Delamare 5.5457% 2029                            | 10,720,000 | 9,926       | 0.85       |
| Telereal (B-4) 6.1645% 2031                      | 15,552,000 | 17,210      | 1.47       |
| Telereal (C1) FRN 2031 <sup>1</sup>              | 8,600,000  | 7,743       | 0.66       |

| Stock description                       | Holding    | Market      | % of total |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|
|   |            | value £'000 | net assets |
| Telereal 4.0902% 2021/31 (B2) EJ4608190 | 1,586,000  | 1,629       | 0.14       |
| Tesco Property Finance 6 5.4111% 2044   | 16,370,000 | 18,838      | 1.61       |
| Consumer Goods - 3.03% (1.70%)          |            |             |            |
| Brown-Forman 2.6% 2028                  | 23,092,000 | 23,472      | 2.00       |
| Hasbro 3.9% 2029                        | 16,600,000 | 11,947      | 1.02       |
| Virgolino De Oliveira 11.75% 2022       | 2,485,000  | 80          | 0.01       |
| Energy - 1.67% (2.33%)                  |            |             |            |
| Cheniere Corpus Christi 5.125% 2027     | 16,931,000 | 12,127      | 1.04       |
| Laredo Petroleum 10.125% 2028           | 8,900,000  | 2,727       | 0.23       |
| Neptune 6.625% 2025                     | 10,500,000 | 4,723       | 0.40       |
| Financial Services - 2.85% (2.93%)      |            |             |            |
| Fidelity 2.5% 2026                      | 20,310,000 | 18,225      | 1.56       |
| Softbank 5% 2028                        | 15,090,000 | 11,815      | 1.01       |
| Target Hospitality 9.5% 2024 (144A)     | 9,000,000  | 3,266       | 0.28       |
| Government Guaranteed - 4.98% (3.12%)   |            |             |            |
| KFW 5% 2036                             | 20,800,000 | 33,164      | 2.84       |
| KFW 6% 2028                             | 17,485,000 | 25,054      | 2.14       |
| Health Care - 4.20% (4.33%)             |            |             |            |
| AstraZeneca 5.75% 2031                  | 6,925,000  | 9,337       | 0.80       |
| AstraZeneca 6.45% 2037                  | 13,750,000 | 15,726      | 1.34       |
| Catalent 2.375% 2028                    | 17,000,000 | 13,870      | 1.19       |
| IQVIA 3.25% 2025                        | 7,170,000  | 6,187       | 0.53       |
| Unilabs 5.75% 2025                      | 4,930,000  | 4,006       | 0.34       |
| Insurance - 9.26% (10.01%)              |            |             |            |
| Admiral Group 5.5% 2024                 | 11,290,000 | 12,176      | 1.04       |
| Brit Insurance 6.625% 2020/30           | 8,900,000  | 8,541       | 0.73       |
| BUPA 6.125% 2020 Perp                   | 11,100,000 | 10,764      | 0.92       |
| Legal & General 5.125% 2028/48          | 1,600,000  | 1,626       | 0.14       |
| Legal & General 5.375% 2025/45          | 6,892,000  | 7,129       | 0.61       |

| Stock description                          | Holding    | Market      | % of total |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
|  |            | value £'000 | net assets |
| Legal & General 5.5% 2044/64               | 3,811,000  | 3,671       | 0.31       |
| MetLife 3.5% 2026                          | 10,950,000 |             | 0.91       |
|  | , ,        | 11,585      | 0.99       |
| Pension Insurance 5.625% 2030              | 9,100,000  | 9,165       |            |
| Pension Insurance 8% 2026                  | 7,600,000  | 9,056       | 0.78       |
| Phoenix Life 7.25% 2021 Perp               | 8,454,000  | 8,318       | 0.71       |
| Rothesay Life 8% 2025                      | 12,780,000 | 13,749      | 1.18       |
| Zurich Financial Services 6.625% 2022 Perp | 12,212,000 | 12,536      | 1.07       |
| Leisure - 4.06% (4.60%)                    |            |             |            |
| Cirsa 4.75% 2025                           | 6,410,000  | 3,515       | 0.30       |
| International Game Technology 3.5% 2026    | 8,095,000  | 5,410       | 0.46       |
| Merlin Entertainments 4.5% 2027            | 5,230,000  | 3,357       | 0.29       |
| Merlin Entertainments 5.75% 2026 (144A)    | 4,410,000  | 3,005       | 0.26       |
| Pure Gym 6.375% 2025                       | 18,236,000 | 12,384      | 1.06       |
| Whitbread 3.375% 2025                      | 21,100,000 | 19,830      | 1.69       |
| Media - 4.41% (7.33%)                      |            |             |            |
| Netflix 4.625% 2029                        | 30,605,000 | 27,726      | 2.37       |
| Virgin Media 5% 2027                       | 25,212,000 | 23,929      | 2.04       |
| Real Estate - 3.70% (2.46%)                |            |             |            |
| Annington Funding 3.184% 2029              | 10,824,000 | 10,713      | 0.92       |
| CPI Property 2.75% 2028                    | 12,860,000 | 11,594      | 0.99       |
| CPI Property 4.375% 2023 Perp              | 7,700,000  | 6,327       | 0.54       |
| Vonovia 4% 2021 Perpetual                  | 16,700,000 | 14,623      | 1.25       |
| Retail - 3.74% (4.74%)                     |            |             |            |
| Co-operative Group 5.125% 2024             | 7,089,000  | 6,978       | 0.60       |
| Co-operative Group 7.5% 2026               | 19,278,000 | 19,432      | 1.66       |
| Liberty Interactive 4% 2029 Convertible    | 19,570,000 | 11,053      | 0.94       |
| LVMH 1.125% 2027                           | 6,700,000  | 6,261       | 0.54       |
| Services - 2.61% (2.75%)                   |            |             |            |
| Darling Ingredients 3.625% 2026            | 13,930,000 | 11,147      | 0.95       |
| University of Cambridge 2.35% 2078         | 1,950,000  | 2,523       | 0.22       |

| Stock description                        | Holding    | Market      | % of total |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
|  |            | value £'000 | net assets |
| 11                                       | 0.000.000  | 40.457      | 4.40       |
| University of Cambridge 3.75% 2052       | 8,600,000  | 13,157      | 1.12       |
| University of Oxford 2.544% 2117         | 3,200,000  | 3,740       | 0.32       |
| Supranational - 5.16% (5.16%)            |            |             |            |
| EIB 6% 2028                              | 12,920,000 | 18,423      | 1.57       |
| IBRD 1.375% 2020                         | 14,370,000 | 14,467      | 1.24       |
| IBRD 5.75% 2032                          | 17,595,000 | 27,465      | 2.35       |
| Technology & Electronics - 6.17% (6.00%) |            |             |            |
| Booking Holdings 3.55% 2028              | 12,200,000 | 9,880       | 0.84       |
| Corning 5.45% 2079                       | 11,851,000 | 10,089      | 0.86       |
| Dell 5.3% 2029 (144A)                    | 18,940,000 | 15,582      | 1.33       |
| Global Switch 2.25% 2027                 | 20,955,000 | 18,953      | 1.62       |
| Match.com 5% 2027 144A                   | 5,272,000  | 4,061       | 0.35       |
| Match.com 5.625% 2029 144A               | 17,779,000 | 13,693      | 1.17       |
| Telecommunications - 6.95% (7.87%)       |            |             |            |
| AT&T 4.25% 2043                          | 7,890,000  | 8,551       | 0.73       |
| AT&T 7% 2040                             | 8,800,000  | 12,939      | 1.11       |
| Cincinnati Bell 7% 2024 (144A)           | 6,420,000  | 5,178       | 0.44       |
| Cincinnati Bell 8% 2025 (144A)           | 3,805,000  | 3,145       | 0.27       |
| KPN 2% 2024 Perp                         | 14,300,000 | 11,747      | 1.00       |
| KPN 5.75% 2029                           | 13,340,000 | 15,773      | 1.35       |
| Millicom 6.625% 2026 (144A)              | 10,406,000 | 7,963       | 0.68       |
| Orange 5.75% 2023 Perp                   | 15,290,000 | 15,552      | 1.33       |
| Orange SA 5.375% 2050                    | 300,000    | 438         | 0.04       |
| Transportation - 0.50% (0.00%)           |            |             |            |
| Emparq 1.875% 01/02/2028                 | 7,760,000  | 5,850       | 0.50       |
| Utilities - 12.65% (13.30%)              |            |             |            |
| E.ON 6.65% 2038                          | 5,950,000  | 6,479       | 0.55       |
| E.ON 6.75% 2039                          | 2,800,000  | 4,280       | 0.37       |
| EDF 5.5% 2041                            | 2,500,000  | 3,414       | 0.29       |
| EDF 6% 2026 Perp                         | 8,700,000  | 8,381       | 0.72       |

| Stock description                           | Holding    | Market      | % of total |
|---|------------|-------------|------------|
| •   |            | value £'000 | net assets |
| EDF 6% 2114                                 | 2,200,000  | 3,262       | 0.28       |
| EDP 4.496% 2024/79                          | 10,000,000 | 9,115       | 0.78       |
| Enel 2.875% 2022                            | 2,600,000  | 2,034       | 0.17       |
| Enel 5.75% 2040                             | 13,513,000 | 17,608      | 1.50       |
| innogy 6.25% 2030                           | 7,900,000  | 10,387      | 0.89       |
| National Grid 5.625% 2025/73                | 23,600,000 | 24,688      | 2.11       |
| Orsted 1.75% 3019                           | 7,500,000  | 5,853       | 0.50       |
| Orsted 4.875% 2032                          | 7,700,000  | 9,640       | 0.82       |
| Orsted 5.75% 2040                           | 8,300,000  | 12,222      | 1.04       |
| Severn Trent 2.75% 2031                     | 12,600,000 | 13,177      | 1.13       |
| Severn Trent 4.875% 2042                    | 919,000    | 1,242       | 0.11       |
| Western Power Dist East 1.75% 2031          | 17,910,000 | 16,285      | 1.39       |
| Derivatives - 1.33% (0.92%)                 |            |             |            |
| Forward currency contracts (see Table 1)    |            | 14,478      | 1.24       |
| Futures contracts (see Table 2)             |            | -           | 0.00       |
| Credit default swap contracts (see Table 3) |            | 1,062       | 0.09       |
| Portfolio of investments                    |            | 1,093,422   | 93.45      |
| Net other assets - 6.55% (4.52%)            |            | 76,642      | 6.55       |
| Net assets                                  |            | 1,170,063   | 100.00     |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>This stock has been valued using a single broker quote.

Please note: figures are based on market values rather than economic exposure.

Unless otherwise stated the above holdings are in fixed interest securities.

Figures in brackets in the investment category headings refer to 30 September 2019.

Table 1: Unrealised gains/(losses) on open forward currency contracts

|                                      |                        |     |             |      |             | Unrealised     |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----|-------------|------|-------------|----------------|------------|
|                                      |                        |     |             |      |             | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Counterparty                         | Settlement             | Buy | Buy Amount  | Sell | Sell Amount | £'000          | net assets |
| HSBC                                 | 10/10/19               | GBP | 223,563,244 | EUR  | 245,570,000 | 6,067          | 0.52       |
| Royal Bank of Scotland               | 10/10/19               | GBP | 179,158,144 | USD  | 211,890,000 | 8,411          | 0.72       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on open fo | rward currency contrac | ts  |             |      |             | 14,478         | 1.24       |

## Table 2: Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts

|  |          |          | Unrealised     |            |
|--|----------|----------|----------------|------------|
|  |          |          | gains/(losses) | % of total |
| Futures  | Maturity | Notional | £'000          | net assets |
| Euro-Bobl Future June 2020                     | 10/06/20 | (321)    | -              | 0.00       |
| Euro-Bund Future June 2020                     | 10/06/20 | (99)     | -              | 0.00       |
| Long Gilt Future 10 Year June 2020             | 30/06/20 | 1,147    | -              | 0.00       |
| US 5 Year Note June 2020                       | 06/07/20 | (61)     | -              | 0.00       |
| US Long Bond (CBT) June 2020                   | 30/06/20 | (194)    | -              | 0.00       |
| US Ultra 10 Year Note Future June 2020         | 30/06/20 | (594)    | -              | 0.00       |
| US Ultra Long (CBT) June 2020                  | 30/06/20 | 119      | -              | 0.00       |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on futures contracts |          |          | _              | 0.00       |

### **Table 3: Credit default swap contracts**

| Swaps         | Maturity | Currency | Direction      | Notional   | Premium | £'000 | net assets |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------------|------------|---------|-------|------------|
| Barclays Bank | 20/06/25 | Euro     | Buy protection | 40,000,000 | 1%      | 1,062 | 0.09       |

# **Fund Information**

| Fund  | and   | Share |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Infor | matio | on    |

|  | 31.03.20    | 30.09.19    | 30.09.18    | 30.09.17    |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total net asset value of scheme property (£'000) | 1,170,063   | 1,202,703   | 765,489     | 694,071     |
| Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator <sup>1</sup> | 3           | 3           | 3           | 3           |
| Net asset value per share (pence)                |             |             |             |             |
| A Accumulation                                   | 198.39      | 216.62      | 198.23      | 196.07      |
| A Income   | 78.03       | 86.11       | 81.12       | 82.66       |
| B Accumulation                                   | 214.97      | 234.14      | 213.19      | 209.82      |
| B Income   | 82.45       | 91.01       | 85.73       | 87.36       |
| C Accumulation                                   | 247.74      | 269.15      | 243.84      | 238.79      |
| C Income   | 86.73       | 95.63       | 90.09       | 91.80       |
| Number of shares in issue                        |             |             |             |             |
| A Accumulation                                   | 7,170,121   | 14,268,919  | 7,447,948   | 8,512,882   |
| A Income   | 6,823,920   | 7,644,299   | 8,002,443   | 9,503,128   |
| B Accumulation                                   | 344,850,661 | 306,793,123 | 210,645,112 | 172,132,348 |
| B Income   | 495,517,278 | 490,311,919 | 343,389,581 | 326,403,493 |
| C Accumulation                                   | 1,000       | 1,000       | 1,000       | 1,000       |
| C Income   | 709,830     | 709,830     | 844,994     | 25,270,805  |

Annual Income Record

|  | Period to 31.03.20<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.19<br>(pence) | Year to 30.09.18 (pence) | Year to 30.09.17 (pence) |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Income per share (financial period) <sup>2</sup> |                               |                             |                          |                          |
| A Accumulation                                   | 2.40                          | 6.03                        | 5.89                     | 6.29                     |
| A Income   | 0.90                          | 2.45                        | 2.46                     | 2.71                     |
| B Accumulation                                   | 3.00                          | 7.61                        | 7.39                     | 7.73                     |
| B Income   | 1.20                          | 3.02                        | 3.04                     | 3.29                     |
| C Accumulation                                   | 3.90                          | 10.00                       | 9.64                     | 9.92                     |
| C Income   | 1.40                          | 3.64                        | 3.64                     | 3.91                     |

## Fund Information cont.

| Yearly Highest |
|----------------|
| and Lowest     |
| Prices         |

|                                      | Period to 31.03.20 | Year to 30.09.19 | Year to 30.09.18 | Year to 30.09.17 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                      | (pence)            | (pence)          | (pence)          | (pence)          |
| Highest (financial period)           |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| A Accumulation                       | 223.5              | 218.3            | 202.4            | 199.9            |
| A Income                             | 88.23              | 87.60            | 84.88            | 85.16            |
| B Accumulation                       | 242.1              | 235.8            | 216.9            | 213.9            |
| B Income                             | 93.27              | 92.56            | 89.70            | 89.90            |
| C Accumulation                       | 278.8              | 271.0            | 247.2            | 243.3            |
| C Income                             | 98.14              | 97.29            | 94.27            | 94.40            |
| Lowest (financial period)            |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| A Accumulation                       | 187.3              | 196.6            | 197.2            | 181.5            |
| A Income                             | 73.83              | 80.02            | 82.17            | 78.71            |
| B Accumulation                       | 203.0              | 211.8            | 211.1            | 193.5            |
| B Income                             | 78.04              | 84.56            | 86.80            | 83.20            |
| C Accumulation                       | 233.9              | 242.5            | 240.2            | 218.8            |
| C Income                             | 82.11              | 88.86            | 91.20            | 87.44            |
|                                      | 31.03.20           | 30.09.19 (%)     | 30.09.18         | 30.09.17         |
| Ongoing Charges Figures <sup>3</sup> | (70)               | (70)             | (70)             | (%)              |
| A Accumulation                       | 1.02               | 1.02             | 1.02             | 1.02             |
| A Income                             | 1.02               | 1.02             | 1.02             | 1.02             |
| B Accumulation                       | 0.52               | 0.52             | 0.52             | 0.52             |
| B Income                             | 0.52               | 0.52             | 0.52             | 0.52             |
| C Accumulation                       | 0.02               | 0.02             | 0.03             | 0.03             |
| C Income                             | 0.02               | 0.02             | 0.03             | 0.03             |

**Ongoing Charges** 

**Figures** 

You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Synthetic Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. Further information is included in the Risk and Reward Profile section of the Fund's interim report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>With effect from 1 October 2019, all permitted expenses of the Fund were allocated to capital for distribution purposes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The Ongoing Charges Figure is based on the expenses for the financial period and may vary from year to year. It excludes the cost of buying and selling assets for the Fund although custodian transaction costs are included. A further explanation of charges and costs relating to the Fund can be obtained by contacting Client Relations.

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited)

## Statement of Total Return for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |           | 31 March 2019 |          |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
|  | £'000         | £'000     | £'000         | £'000    |
| Income   |               |           |               |          |
| Net capital gains/(losses)   |               | (131,131) |               | 15,133   |
| Revenue  | 22,675        |           | 16,619        |          |
| Expenses   | (3,464)       |           | (2,115)       |          |
| Net revenue before taxation  | 19,211        |           | 14,504        |          |
| Taxation   | -             |           | -             |          |
| Net revenue after taxation   |               | 19,211    |               | 14,504   |
| Total return before distributions  |               | (111,920) |               | 29,637   |
| Distributions  |               | (17,097)  |               | (11,074) |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (129,017) |               | 18,563   |

## Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders for the six months ended 31 March 2020

|  | 31 March 2020 |           | 31 March 2019 |         |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------|
|  | €'000         | £'000     | £'000         | £'000   |
| Opening net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 1,202,703 |               | 765,489 |
| Amounts receivable on issue of shares  | 221,743       |           | 106,356       |         |
| Amounts payable on cancellation of shares                                    | (138,203)     |           | (16,059)      |         |
|  |               | 83,540    |               | 90,297  |
| Dilution adjustment  |               | 2,198     |               | 263     |
| Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities |               | (129,017) |               | 18,563  |
| Retained distributions on accumulation shares                                |               | 10,639    |               | 6,896   |
| Closing net assets attributable to shareholders                              |               | 1,170,063 |               | 881,508 |

# Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited) cont.

#### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

|   | 31 March 2020 | 30 September 2019 |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
|   |               | ·                 |
|   | £'000         | £'000             |
| Assets:                                 |               |                   |
| Fixed assets:                           |               |                   |
| Investments                             | 1,093,422     | 1,148,329         |
| Current assets:                         |               |                   |
| Debtors                                 | 55,054        | 27,399            |
| Cash and bank balances                  | 83,628        | 55,915            |
| Total assets                            | 1,232,104     | 1,231,642         |
| Liabilities:                            |               |                   |
| Creditors:                              |               |                   |
| Bank overdrafts                         | (8,938)       | (3,182)           |
| Distributions payable                   | (1,003)       | (4,088)           |
| Other creditors                         | (52,100)      | (21,670)          |
| Total liabilities                       | (62,041)      | (28,940)          |
| Net assets attributable to shareholders | 1,170,063     | 1,202,703         |

## **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association in May 2014.

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those in the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 and are described in those annual financial statements.

## General Information

## **Dilution Adjustment**

A sub-fund suffers dilution (reduction) in the value of the Scheme Property attributable to it because the actual costs of buying or selling investments for the sub-fund deviate from the mid-market values generally used in calculating the price of shares in the sub-fund. Such deviation may occur as a result of the costs (which may include dealing charges and taxes) incurred in dealing in such investments and of any spread between the buying and selling prices of such investments. It is not possible to predict accurately whether dilution is likely to occur.

The COLL Rules allow the cost of dilution to be (1) met directly from the Scheme Property attributable to the sub-fund or (2) addressed by the imposition on investors of a dilution levy on the issue by the Company, sale by the ACD, cancellation by the Company or redemption by the ACD of shares in the sub-fund or (3) dealt with by means of a dilution adjustment, which is the policy which has been adopted by the ACD in relation to the sub-funds of the Company. With a view to mitigating the effects of dilution, the ACD therefore reserves the right at its sole discretion to make a dilution adjustment in the calculation of the dealing price, and thereby swing the dealing price, of shares in any sub-fund of the Company if in its opinion the existing shareholders (for net purchases of shares) or remaining shareholders (for net redemptions of shares) might otherwise be adversely affected. By 'purchases' of shares we mean issues by the Company and sales by the ACD and by 'redemptions' of shares we mean cancellations by the Company and redemptions by the ACD.

The COLL Rules acknowledge that the need to make a dilution adjustment may depend on the volume of purchases of shares or redemptions of shares. Accordingly, the ACD reserves the right at its sole discretion to impose a dilution adjustment in the following circumstances:

- (a) If the sub-fund is experiencing steady decline (net outflow of investment).
- (b) If the sub-fund is experiencing steady growth (net inflow of investment).

- (c) If the sub-fund is experiencing large levels of net purchases or net redemptions relative to its size.
- (d) Where the sub-fund experiences net purchases or net redemptions on any Dealing Day exceeding a particular value or a particular percentage of the value of the sub-fund.
- (e) In any other circumstances where the ACD believes it will be in the interests of Shareholders to make a dilution adjustment.

The ACD is currently of the opinion that it is in the best interests of shareholders in the Company to make a dilution adjustment whenever dealings in the shares of any sub-fund result in shares in that sub-fund being issued or cancelled by the Company. The adjustment will take account of any spread between the buying and selling prices of the relevant sub-fund's investments and the costs (which may include dealing charges and taxes) of acquiring or disposing of such investments, as the case may be.

The level of the dilution adjustment is set by the ACD based on prevailing market conditions. Where liquidity is restricted and trading in size in the portfolio's investments results in significant movement in the prices of these investments the ACD may adjust the level of the dilution adjustment to protect the interests of the ongoing investors in a sub-fund. The ACD has thresholds for the sub-funds for daily net inflows or outflows of cash into or out of the sub-funds. Above these thresholds, which vary by sub-fund and according to market conditions, the ACD will increase the dilution adjustment to reflect the increased dealing costs incurred by the sub-funds as a result of larger inflows and outflows. A consequence of this policy is, however, that smaller transactions made on any day that the relevant threshold is exceeded will also trade at the price incorporating the higher adjustment and this may lead to increased dealing costs. Whether an adjustment may be necessary will depend upon the net movement into or out of a sub-fund on any given day and on the underlying market conditions on that day and it is therefore not possible to predict when an adjustment may be made.

## **Dilution Adjustment cont.**

On any Dealing Day when the Company neither issues nor cancels shares in a sub-fund the price of shares in that sub-fund will not contain any dilution adjustment.

This policy to swing the dealing price will be subject to regular review and may change. The ACD's decision on whether or not to make a dilution adjustment, and on what level of adjustment to make in particular circumstances or generally, will not prevent it from making a different decision in similar circumstances in the future.

Where a dilution adjustment is applied, it will increase the dealing price when there are net inflows into the relevant sub-fund and decrease the dealing price when there are net outflows. The dealing price of each class of share in a sub-fund will be calculated separately but any dilution adjustment will in percentage terms affect the dealing price of shares of each class identically.

On the occasions when no dilution adjustment is made there may be an adverse impact on the value of the Scheme Property attributable to the relevant sub-fund.

### **Stamp Duty Reserve Tax (SDRT)**

Generally, there will be no charge to SDRT when Shareholders surrender or redeem shares. However, where the redemption is satisfied by a non-pro rata in specie redemption, then a charge of SDRT may apply.

## **Taxation Reporting**

In order to fulfil its legal obligations, the ACD is required to collect and report certain information about shareholders, including their identity, tax residency and tax status. Shareholders must provide the ACD with any information required to meet these obligations, and may also be asked to provide self-certifications and tax reference numbers or the equivalent. The ACD reserves the right to refuse an application for shares or a transfer

of shares until it receives a declaration as to the shareholder's tax residency or status in the form prescribed by the ACD.

The ACD is also required to provide to HMRC certain information regarding shareholders, payments made to shareholders and proceeds arising on the disposal of shares, and HMRC may pass such information on to the tax authorities of another jurisdiction.

While the ACD is not required to report income payments in the form of interest payments made to corporate bodies, such corporate bodies may have reporting obligations of their own if they are receiving payments on behalf of reportable persons.

#### **Share Classes**

The net asset value of each sub-fund, the net asset value per share, and the number of shares in each class are shown in the Fund Information sections of the relevant sub-fund. In each sub-fund all share classes have the same rights on winding up.

Where Class C Shares are available, they are only available to persons to whom the ACD, or an associate of the ACD provides services under an investment management agreement or who has a separate fee arrangement with the ACD or one of its associates.

The minimum lump sum investment amounts are shown in the table on page 97.

## **Equalisation**

The Company will operate grouping for equalisation. Each class of shares will operate its own equalisation account. Shares purchased during an accounting period are called Group 2 shares. Shares purchased during any previous accounting period are called Group 1 shares. Group 2 shares contain in their purchase price an amount called equalisation which represents a proportion of the net income of the sub-fund that has accrued up to the date of purchase. The amount of equalisation is averaged across all the shareholders of Group 2 shares and is

### **Equalisation cont.**

refunded to them as part of their first distribution and is treated as a return of capital for tax purposes. Being capital it is not liable to income tax but must be deducted from the cost of the shares for capital gains tax purposes.

An 'income equalisation-like' mechanism will be operated by the ACD for conversions. The ACD will ensure that the mechanism is operated to ensure fair treatment of those converting their shares and other shareholders in the affected classes.

## **Fund Charges and Costs**

A further explanation of charges and costs relating to the sub-funds of the ICVC can be found in the Enhanced Disclosure of Fund Charges and Costs document for each sub-fund on our website.

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

From time to time, there may be situations that give rise to a material interest or conflict of interest. Such interests can arise between the interests of the ACD, the Investment Adviser, other persons associated with them and the interests of the sub-funds and their shareholders. A material interest or a conflict of interest can also arise between the interests of different shareholders. In such circumstances the ACD will put in place effective organisational and administrative arrangements to manage and monitor the material interest or conflict of interest in a way that ensures shareholders are treated fairly, or where it is impractical to manage the conflict, it will be disclosed.

The ACD, the Investment Adviser and other persons associated with them may, from time to time, act as authorised corporate directors, investment managers or advisers to other persons, companies or funds which follow similar investment objectives to the sub-funds. It is therefore possible that the ACD and/or the Investment Adviser may in the course of their business have potential conflicts of interest with the Company or a

particular sub-fund. Each of the ACD and the Investment Adviser will, however, have regard in such event to, amongst other things, its obligation to act in the best interests of the Company so far as practicable, having regard to its obligations to other clients, when undertaking any investment where potential conflicts of interest may arise. The Depositary may, from time to time, act as the depositary or trustee of other companies or funds.

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## Minimum Lump Sum Investments and ACD's Annual Fee

|   | Class A | Class B  | Class C  |
|---|---------|----------|----------|
| Minimum lump sum investments:                   | Olass A | Olass D  | Olass O  |
| willindin famp sum investments.                 |         |          |          |
| Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Bond Fund      | £1,000  | £1,000   | £250,000 |
| Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund            | £1,000  | £1,000   | £250,000 |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Bond Fund      | £1,000  | £1,000   | £250,000 |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Long Bond Fund | n/a     | £250,000 | £250,000 |
| Baillie Gifford Strategic Bond Fund             | £1,000  | £1,000   | £250,000 |
| ACD's annual fee:                               |         |          |          |
| Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Bond Fund      | 1.10%   | 0.40%    | Nil      |
| Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund            | 1.00%   | 0.35%    | Nil      |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Bond Fund      | 1.00%   | 0.25%    | Nil      |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Long Bond Fund | n/a     | 0.25%    | Nil      |
| Baillie Gifford Strategic Bond Fund             | 1.00%   | 0.50%    | Nil      |

# The Group's Funds

| Baillie Gifford Bond Funds ICVC                                       | Baillie Gifford Overseas Growth Funds ICVC              |
|---|---|
| Baillie Gifford Active Gilt Investment Fund <sup>1</sup>              | Baillie Gifford American Fund                           |
| Baillie Gifford Active Index-Linked Gilt Investment Fund <sup>1</sup> | Baillie Gifford China Fund                              |
| Baillie Gifford Active Long Gilt Investment Fund <sup>1</sup>         | Baillie Gifford Developed Asia Pacific Fund             |
| Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Bond Fund                            | Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Growth Fund            |
| Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond Fund                                  | Baillie Gifford Emerging Markets Leading Companies Fund |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Bond Fund                            | Baillie Gifford European Fund                           |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Grade Long Bond Fund                       | Baillie Gifford Global Discovery Fund                   |
| Baillie Gifford Strategic Bond Fund                                   | Baillie Gifford Japanese Fund                           |
|   | Baillie Gifford Japanese Smaller Companies Fund         |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Funds ICVC                                 | Baillie Gifford Pacific Fund                            |
| Baillie Gifford Diversified Growth Fund                               |   |
| Baillie Gifford Long Term Global Growth Investment Fund               | Baillie Gifford UK & Balanced Funds ICVC                |
| Baillie Gifford Multi Asset Growth Fund                               | Baillie Gifford British Smaller Companies Fund          |
| Baillie Gifford Positive Change Fund                                  | Baillie Gifford Global Alpha Growth Fund                |
|   | Baillie Gifford Global Income Growth Fund               |
| Baillie Gifford Investment Funds II ICVC                              | Baillie Gifford International Fund                      |
| Baillie Gifford Global Stewardship Fund                               | Baillie Gifford Managed Fund                            |
| Baillie Gifford Japanese Income Growth Fund                           | Ballie Gifford Responsible Global Equity Income Fund    |
| Baillie Gifford Multi Asset Income Fund                               | Baillie Gifford UK and Worldwide Equity Fund            |
| Baillie Gifford Sterling Aggregate Bond Fund                          | Baillie Gifford UK Equity Alpha Fund                    |
| Baillie Gifford Sterling Aggregate Plus Bond Fund                     | Baillie Gifford UK Equity Focus Fund                    |
| Baillie Gifford UK Equity Core Fund                                   | Glenfinlas Global Fund <sup>2</sup>                     |
|   |   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>With effect from 31 March 2020 Baillie Gifford Active Gilt Investment Fund, Baillie Gifford Active Index-Linked Gilt Investment Fund and Baillie Gifford Active Long Gilt Investment Fund were terminated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Glenfinlas Global Fund is no longer available for subscription.

# For further information about the Funds or Baillie Gifford's range of OEICS, please:

Contact us at: Client Relations Team

Baillie Gifford & Co Limited, Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row,

Edinburgh EH1 3AN

Call our Client Relations Team on 0800 917 2113. Your call may be recorded for training or monitoring purposes.

Visit our website at www.bailliegifford.com, or email us on trustenquiries@bailliegifford.com.

Or fax us on 0131 275 3955.