



**BERENBERG**

PARTNERSHIP SINCE 1590

July 2020

# Arundel and Brighton Diocese



# Market Review & Outlook

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# Market Review & Outlook

## Overview



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### 2020 Q2 Review

#### ○ Markets bounce back:

- In stark contrast to end of the first quarter, which saw the fastest 30% drawdown recorded in global equities, the second quarter began with the largest 50-day rally in market history
- Central banks had a large part to play, as stimulus packages were deployed across the globe, from interest rate cuts and lending schemes to asset purchasing programmes
- After spending most of the quarter locked down, nations began to ease restrictions towards the end of the quarter and economies started to reopen
- Assuming nations can succeed in reopening their economies, focus will shift to on-going issues, such as the Brexit negotiations, the upcoming presidential election and the potential for new trade tariffs

#### Markets reaction:

- Equity markets across the board experienced strong gains over the quarter, recovering a significant portion of losses seen in the first quarter as stimulus measures filtered through markets
- Asset purchasing programmes supported government bond prices and narrowed spread on corporate bonds, while gold remained in high demand due to ongoing uncertainty and record low interest rates

### Outlook

- We expect a sharp initial recovery in the global economy as lockdowns are eased and economic activity restarts, which will then recover at a slower pace as nations ramp their output back up
- Inflation is not a pressing issue and is unlikely to constrain economic growth for another 2 years or so
- We view the risk of a set back in markets rising in the short term as the initial impact of stimulus measures wanes

#### Summary:

- Credit and equity markets recover significantly after a difficult first quarter
- Central banks swiftly deploy stimulus to ensure the smooth functioning of markets
- Bond yields fall as central banks purchase assets
- Key political events are on the horizon, with the Brexit negotiations and a presidential election

# Market Review & Outlook

## 2020 Q2 Key Themes



### Central banks open the floodgates

- Central banks acted swiftly in ensuring markets functioned smoothly in the wake of Covid-19, implementing measures in a matter of weeks that took years to roll out post financial crisis
- Interest rates have been cut to historic lows, with potential scope to fall further as Andrew Bailey revealed negative rates for the UK were under active review
- Asset purchasing programmes have been heavily utilised, with the Bank of England targeting £745bn, the ECB €1.35trn and the Fed announcing an unlimited programme that can buy up to \$750bn of individual corporate bonds

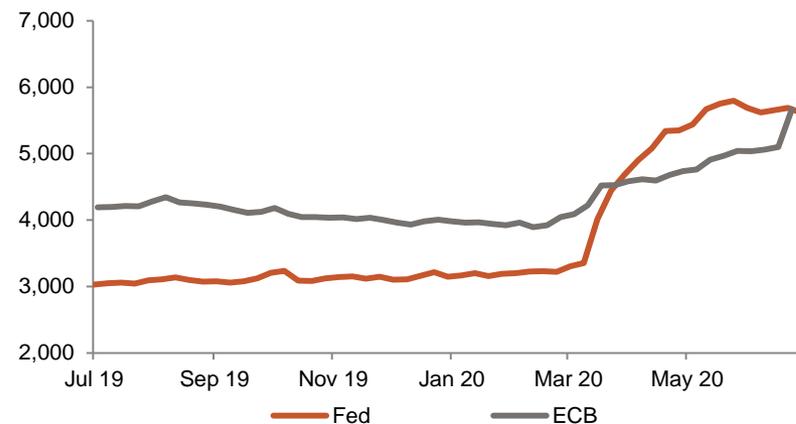
### Sector impact diverges

- Performance of sectors in response to the pandemic has varied greatly
- Leisure has suffered from reduced air traffic, while hospitality will face on-going issues as social distancing measures remain in place
- The energy sector faced both supply and demand issues, which led to WTI oil futures briefly trading negative as storage was limited in the US
- Technology has proved resilient, as global lockdown measures caused a surge in demand for technologies that make remote working possible

### Brexit reaches crunch time

- The deadline to extend Brexit negotiations has passed, leaving the UK and the EU six months to negotiate a comprehensive future relationship
- Key sticking points remain in adherence to the “level playing field”, governance and the role of the ECJ and fisheries
- Intensified negotiations will continue, as parties seek to achieve some form of arrangement ahead of the European Council on 15-16 October

### Central bank balance sheets expand (£ billion)



### Price of oil nears multi-year lows following price war



# Market Review & Outlook

## Market Outlook

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### **Recovery sharp initially as economies reopen then slows**

- We expect a sharp initial recovery as economic activity resumes following the lockdown period
- Following this our expectations are that the recovery continues at a slower pace as economic output trends to its pre-Covid-19 level
- Our economists believe GDP levels will return to their pre-Covid-19 levels after two to three years
- We see limited risk of inflationary pressures building in the near term, so monetary policy is likely to remain very loose

### **Equity allocation is now broadly neutral**

- We have a positive outlook on equities on a long term view given that discount rates look to be lower for a significant amount of time
- Shorter term, we are more cautious as we see risks of a set back rising as the initial shock of stimulus packages can not go on forever
- We have recently trimmed our position in equities to a broadly neutral level after the significant market rally

### **Regional variation**

- We are defensively positioned on a relative basis, but have an overweight position in emerging markets
- Equity valuations are optically expensive following a sharp rise, although lower for longer interest rates merit higher valuations
- On a long term view, we think the low inflation, low interest rate environment will benefit our quality growth style

### **Interest rate exposure remains unattractive**

- We retain a cautious approach to both interest rate sensitivity and yield following the decrease in yields last quarter.
- We are keeping the average maturity of our bond exposures low and corporate bond weightings moderate.
- We are retaining gold for now as a diversifier. We are cautious on other alternative investments in a difficult environment for liquidity.

### **Risks to our outlook**

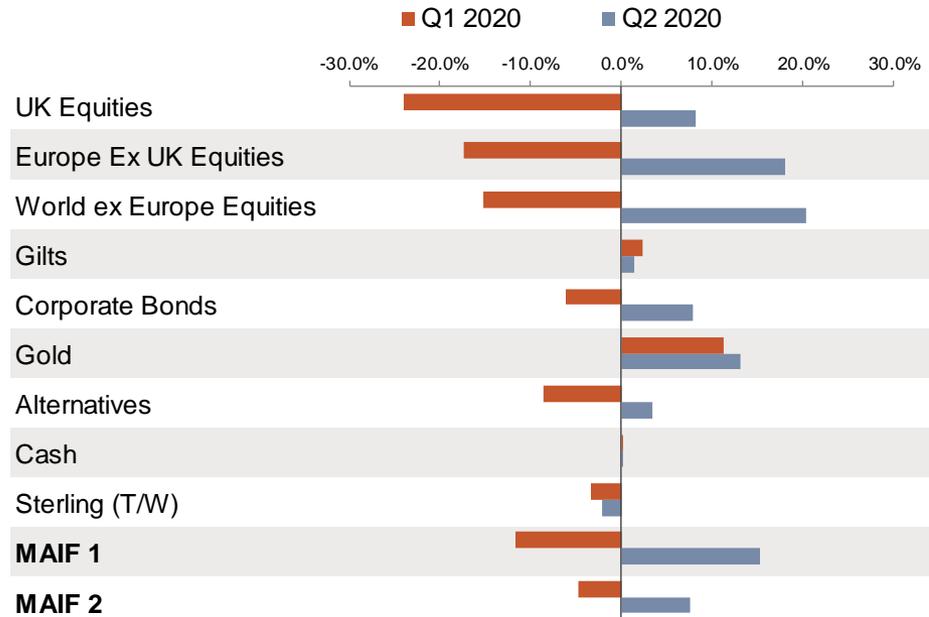
- Further outbreaks could cause recurring lockdowns prolonging the economic downturn
- The second round effects of the lockdown could grow, such as a liquidity squeeze or credit crunch

# Market Review & Outlook

## Asset Performance And Outlook

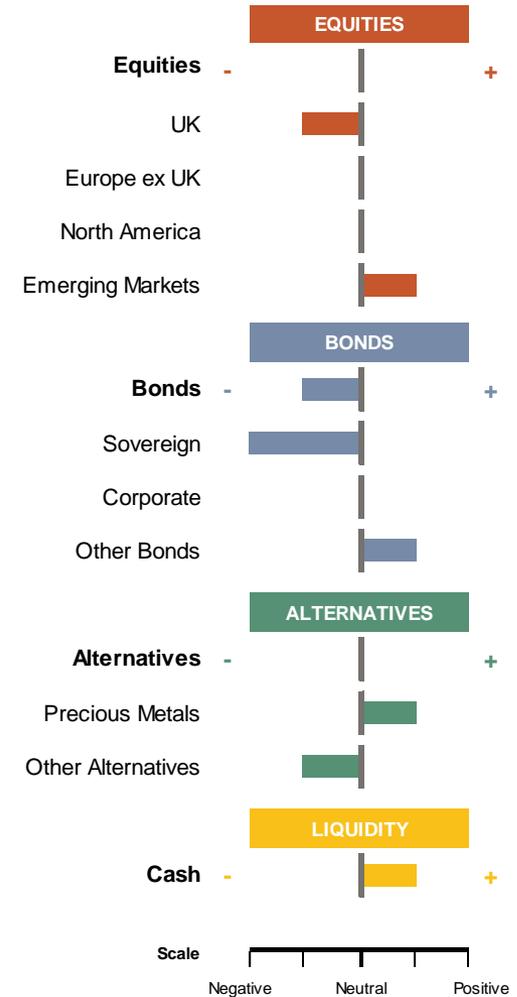


### Asset performance



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Berenberg PMP  
Total Return in Sterling to Close of Business 30/06/2020

### Outlook



# Performance

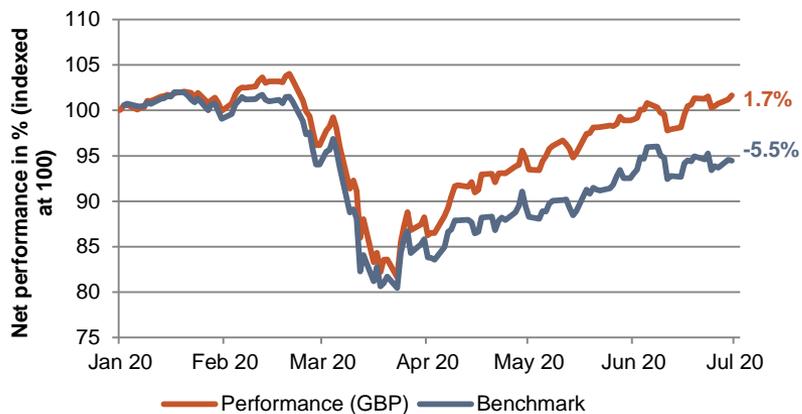
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# Performance Overview



## MAIF 1 Distributing (YTD\*)



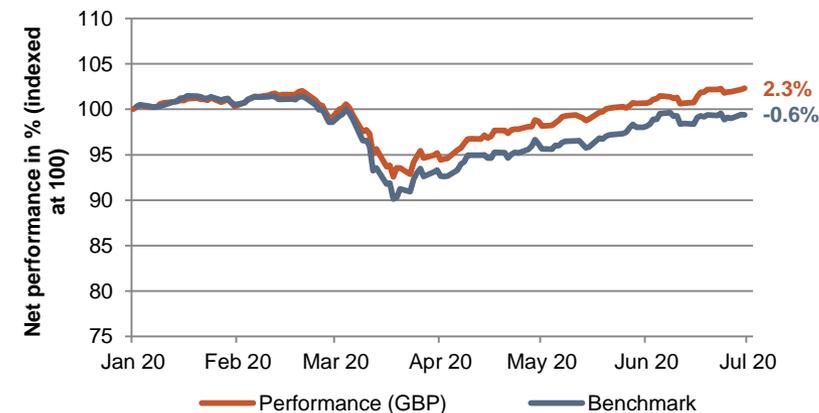
## Portfolio Manager Commentary

- **MAIF 1** – +22.9% vs benchmark +6.7% since inception  
+1.7% vs benchmark -5.5% YTD\*
- **MAIF 2** – +11.7% vs benchmark +7.4% since inception  
+2.3% vs benchmark -0.6% YTD\*

### Equities

- We had a good start to 2020, after a strong 2019 We were slightly overweight equities but took some profits in January and reduced our exposure to equities. The outbreak of the Covid-19 hit equity markets significantly; MAIF 1 was down close to 20% in March.
- We have acted opportunistically to buy some quality growth stocks such as PayPal, Straumann, LHC Group and Halma . As a result, we have a close to neutral equity position from being 10% underweight previously. Due to this change in weight, we were able to profit from the recovery in equity markets.
- The highest contributors to performance have been PayPal (+0.88%), Microsoft (+0.75%), Tencent (+0.57%) and LHC Group (+0.55%). The laggards of the portfolio have been BP (-0.69%) and Lundin Energy (-0.67%); both of which have now been exited.

## MAIF 2 Distributing (YTD\*)



### Bonds

- We have sold the position in the Global Evolution Frontier Market Fund as Covid-19 hit Frontier Markets the hardest.
- Marks & Spencer bonds (in MAIF 2) got a downgrade and is now HY. The bonds are also part of MAIF 2 where we are not allowed to invest in HY. The liquidity of these trading bonds have been poor.

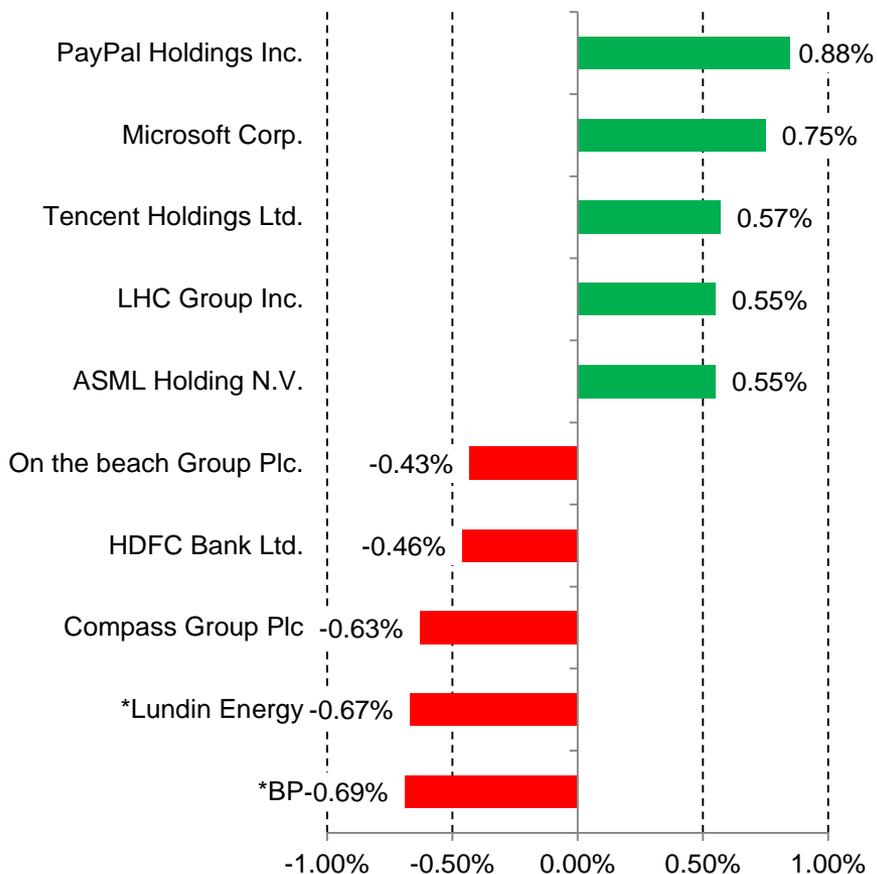
\*Note: YTD figures are taken from 01/01/20 – 30/06/20

Source: Berenberg Portfolio Management Program. Note: The shown historical performance corresponds to the performance of the real managed wealth management mandate. Past performance is neither an indicator of future performance nor a guarantee of future returns.

# Performance Overview



## Top 5 Contribution Gainers and Laggards: MAIF 1 DIST



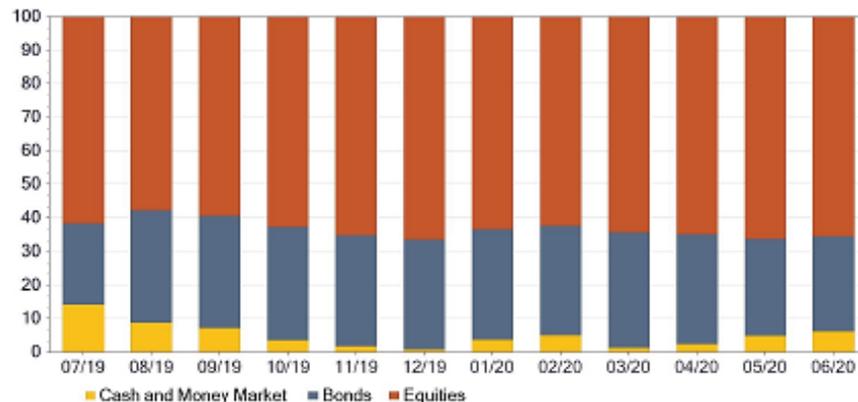
Source: Berenberg PMP

01/01/2020 – 30/06/2020

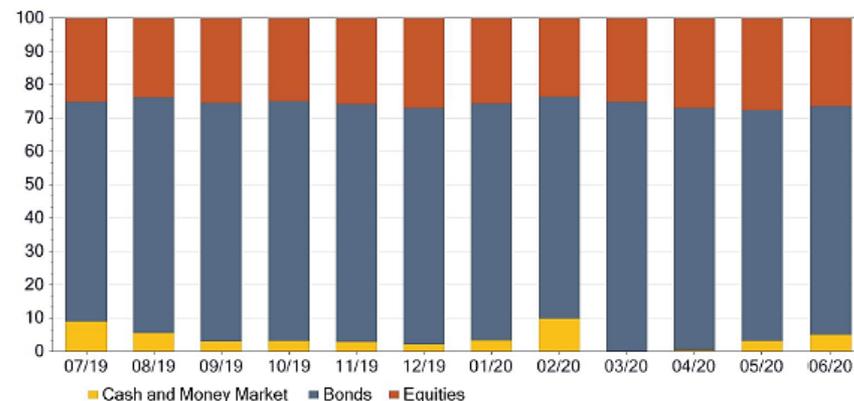
\*Note, due to the carbon restrictions of the portfolio, positions in BP Plc and Lundin Energy AB have now been exited and are no longer in the portfolio.

The shown historical performance corresponds to the performance of the real managed wealth management mandate. Past performance is neither an indicator of future performance nor a guarantee of future returns.

## MAIF 1 Distributing (LTM)



## MAIF 2 Distributing (LTM)



Period: 01/01/2020 – 30/06/2020



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As of: 21 July 2020