

OUR FOUR FUNDAMENTAL
QUALITY PILLARS - IDENTIFYING
GLOBAL BEST-IN-CLASS BUSINESSES









# INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

To achieve long-term growth in capital and income in a focused portfolio of high quality listed businesses from around the world.

# INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

We invest in best in class businesses for their quality, strategic competitive edge and value.

### **FUND COMMENTARY**

World equity markets ended the month broadly where they started. Despite a strong reporting season, volatility increased materially from a robust announcement on US new employment which heightened uncertainty as to whether the Federal Reserve will cut in December. Increasing reservations over OpenAl's ability to fund its infrastructure commitments contributed to the sharply increasing pricing of debt for several unprofitable technology businesses that are more reliant on debt funding. The share prices of many of these businesses came under pressure and affected the overall risk appetite

From a fundamental perspective, the broad business backdrop remains reassuring. Following the completion of a strong US reporting season and increasing profitability, consensus one-year forward earnings expectations continue to increase despite the high earnings base. This is now expected at +12.9% for the S&P 500 Index.

The largest contributors to performance over the month were Alphabet, Broadcom and Stryker. Alphabet's stock continues its rerating following further information that their Gemini 3 Al tool is leading the competition and impressions that other technology companies are considering buying its custom TPU chips. For the first time Alphabet is also seen as a potential custom chip provider, even in competition with NVIDIA. Sentiment on Broadcom strengthened materially from these new perceptions as they work in partnership with Alphabet on the design of its custom chips. Following Stryker's raised guidance with their results, they had an Investor Day at which they communicated their strategic path towards expanding profitability. It also benefits from improving investor sentiment in the Health Care sector.

The largest detractors from performance were Eaton, Cadence Design Systems and Microsoft. Whilst they all declared strong results in October, their shares suffered from the intra-month volatility on Al-related stocks. They are all very profitable and cash generative, and their shares turned for the better close to month end despite continued weakness in less robust Al-related peers.

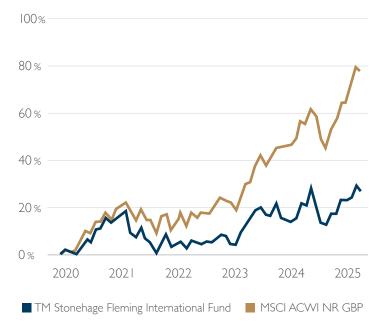
Data sourced from Bloomberg

Opinions expressed represent the view of SFIM at the time of preparation. They are subject to change and should not be interpreted as investment advice.

## **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

- Invest for sustainable growth
- Fundamental research driven
- Particular focus on quality of management, balance sheet strength, return on invested capital, free cash flow, ability to grow dividends each year
- Bottom-up approach to identify exceptional businesses
- · Global orientation, with emerging market exposure
- · High conviction concentrated portfolio
- Predominantly larger capitalisation businesses, also consider exceptional medium-sized ones
- · Buy to hold and disciplined selling
- No benchmark orientation, no active trading, no leverage, no hedging

## FIVE YEAR PERFORMANCE



### **CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE %**

	Im	YTD	lyr	3yr	5yr	
TM Stonehage Fleming International Fund	-1.8	4.9	4.4	20.5	27.2	
Annualised	-	-	-	6.4	4.9	
MSCI ACWI NR GBP	-0.9	14.4	13.4	50.1	77.4	
Annualised	-	-	-	14.5	12.1	

#### CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE %

		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	TM Stonehage Fleming International Fund	7.7	9.0	-13.1	16.1	11.8
1	MSCI ACWI NR GBP	19.8	15.1	-8.7	19.6	13.0



# TOP TEN HOLDINGS (% OF FUND)

Alphabet	9.5
EssilorLuxottica	6.3
GE Aerospace	5.9
Microsoft	5.5
S&P Global	4.7
Amazon	4.6
Netflix	4.6
Amphenol	4.5
ASML	4.4
Mastercard	4.4
TOTAL	54.2

## SECTOR BREAKDOWN (% OF FUND)

Technology	23.5
Financials	16.2
Industrials	15.3
Communication	14.0
Health Care	11.7
Discretionary	9.7
Staples	3.6
Materials	3.3
Cash	2.7
TOTAL	100.0



GERRIT SMIT
LEAD PORTFOLIO MANAGER



CAROLYN BELL
DEPUTY PORTFOLIO MANAGER

# REGIONAL BREAKDOWN BY LISTING (% OF FUND)

United States	80.8
Europe	16.5
Cash	2.7
TOTAL	100.0

# ESTIMATED REGIONAL REVENUES<sup>7</sup> (% OF FUND)

North America	48.8
Emerging Markets	25.8
Europe	19.7
Developed Asia Pacific Inc. Japan	5.8
TOTAL	100.0

## PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

Weighted Average Market Cap (Billions GBP)	721.4
Number of Holdings	25
Operating Margin	33.3%
Return on Invested Capital	20.7%
Net Debt/EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	0.7
Expected 3 Year Revenue Growth (p.a.)*	11.2%
Expected 3 Year EPS <sup>2</sup> Growth (p.a.)*	14.7%
Expected 3 Year DPS³ Growth (p.a.)*	10.9%
Dividend Yield (Gross) <sup>4,5</sup>	0.8%
Price/Earnings Ratio <sup>5</sup>	30.0
Free Cash Flow Yield <sup>5</sup>	3.0%
PEG Ratio <sup>6</sup>	2.8

#### SECTOR BREAKDOWN

Source: Northern Trust Global Services SE (UK branch); Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited.

# PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

- \* Such forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance.
- <sup>1</sup> Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation. <sup>2</sup> Earnings Per Share. <sup>3</sup> Dividend Per Share. <sup>4</sup> Of underlying holdings, and stated gross of withholding taxes and costs. <sup>5</sup> Estimated 12 months forward. <sup>6</sup> Weighted portfolio Trailing P/E Ratio and EPS projections applied.

Source: Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited, Bloomberg.

#### **ESTIMATED REGIONAL REVENUES**

<sup>7</sup> Source: Based on where underlying companies in the TM Stonehage Fleming International Fund derive their revenue.

Source: Bloomberg: Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited; Northern Trust Global Services SE (UK branch). Due to rounding, values may not add up to 100%.





# **OUTCOME OF FAIR VALUE ASSESSMENTS (2024)**

- The fund meets the needs of the target market.
- The intended distribution strategy remains appropriate.
   Historically, the fund did not deliver value for money. In response, as of the 2nd August 2023, Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited changed the personnel managing the fund and the approach to investment selection. The fund will follow the strategy pursued by the Standard Fleming Clabal boot idea. pursued by the Stonehage Fleming Global best ideas fund (GBI), and own the same quality growth business as this fund. The historic performance of GBI, together with more information on the manager, can be found at www.stonehagefleming.com/GBI

#### **INVESTOR PROFILE**

The fund is appropriate for all investor types, including those with only a basic knowledge of funds. It is compatible with investors who do not need a capital guarantee (investors must be prepared to accept fluctuations in the value of capital, including the ability to bear 100% capital loss) and are seeking capital growth. Due to the volatility of markets, investors should be willing to accept price fluctuations in exchange for the opportunity of potentially higher returns. This is a long term investment and investors should have an investment time horizon of at least 5 years. The recommended holding period does not provide any guarantee that the objective will be achieved. This product is eligible for all distribution channels (e.g. investment advice, portfolio management, non-advised sales and pure execution services).

The fund is unlikely to be appropriate for those who:

- Are looking for full capital protection or full repayment of the amount invested, and those who want a guaranteed return
- Have no risk tolerance
- Who are unwilling to accept price fluctuations (volatility) in the value of the fund
- · Do not intend to invest for the long term

## **RISK PROFILE**

The following risks are material:

- The price of units/shares and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. There is no assurance that the investment objective of the Fund will actually be achieved.
- Where investments are in the shares of companies (equities), the value of those equities may fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, in response to the activities and results of individual companies or because of general market and economic conditions or other events.
- Where derivative investments in the Fund may include a counterparty, there is a risk that the counterparty will not fulfil their obligation.
- The Fund may use derivatives to reduce costs, overall risk and/or generate addítional capital or income. This is known as Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM). When used for EPM purposes, there should not be an increase in the overall risk level of the Fund.
- More political, economic or structural challenges face emerging markets or less developed countries than developed countries which may increase volatility and uncertainty.
- Where investments in the Fund are in currencies other than your own, changes in exchange rates may affect the value of your investments.
- Significant exposure to a particular industrial sector or geographical region puts the Fund at risk of a localised event making a significant impact on the value of the Fund.

All the risks currently identified as being applicable to the Fund are set out in the 'Risk' section of the Prospectus.

#### **FUND INFORMATION**

Total Net Assets	£275.7m
Comparative Index	MSCI ACWI NR GBP
Fund Type	UCITS
Fund Domicile	United Kingdom
Base Currency	GBP
Currencies Available	GBP
Inception Date	6 July 1994
Range of Holdings	20-30 stocks
Income Paid	£0.028364
Type of Payment	Dividend
Ex Dividend	16 May 2023
Payment Date	14 July 2023
Pricing	Daily, by 12pm (UK)
Dealing	Daily, by 12pm (UK)

#### **FUND CHARACTERISTICS**

Active Share <sup>1</sup>	85.7%
Ex Post Tracking Error	6.5%
12 Month Turnover	21.7%
Beta	0.83

# GBP B (DISTRIBUTING) SHARE CLASS DETAILS

Price	£5.82
ISIN	GB0032211095
Synthetic Risk & Reward Indicator (SRRI)	5
Annual Management Fee	0.60%
Total Ongoing Charge (OCF <sup>2</sup> )	0.69%
Min Initial Investment (GBP)	£50,000
Registered for Sale	UK

Active Share measures how much the portfolio holdings differ from the benchmark index (MSCI World) ie. a portfolio that is identical to the benchmark would have 0% active share.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  The OCF is the Annual Management Fee plus additional fund expenses as a percentage of the assets of the fund. This gives an indication of annual expenses. This figure may vary over time. It excludes portfolio transaction costs.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is a marketing communication issued by Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited (SFIM). SFIM is the investment manager of the Fund, authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN. 194382). The distribution or possession of this document in jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom may be restricted by law or other regulatory requirements. For details of the Funds investment policy, please see the Investment Objective and Policy section of the Fund Prospectus Document.

All investments risk the loss of capital. No guarantee or representation is made that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The value of investments may go down as well as up. For products designed to return income, the distributions can also go down or up and you may not receive back the full value of your initial investment. Derivatives may be used for efficient portfolio management. The Fund invests in assets which are denominated in other currencies; hence changes in the relevant exchange rate will affect the value of the investment. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. If the information is not displayed in your base currency, then the return may increase or decrease due to currency fluctuations.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information provided to clients is accurate and up to date, some of the information may be rendered inaccurate by changes in applicable laws and regulations that may be subject to change in the future. The information in this document does not constitute legal, tax, or a personal recommendation. You must not, therefore, rely on the content of this document when making any investment decisions.

United Kingdom (UK): The Fund is recognised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) for promotion to retail and professional investors in the UK.

The Authorised Fund Manager is Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited, Exchange Building, St John's Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 IUP. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Before you invest you should read the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and the Prospectus which contain detailed information. The latest version of the Prospectus and the Key Investor Information Document are available in English, free of charge, upon request by writing to Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited at Exchange Building, St John's Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 IUP; or by phoning 01483 783 900 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday; or on the website at www.tutman.co.uk/literature/

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## CONTACT FOR DEALING OR APPLICATION FORM

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