



360



from **AW Financial Management LLP**

December 2017

It's December! Yet again it feels like the year has flown by. In our customary slimmed-down Christmas newsletter, this year we have decided to focus a little more on AWFM, to give you a bit of an update on where we are!

In this issue...

Page 1

- AWFM Update
- Investment performance

Page 2

- Help for the Homeless
- Other News
- Celebrate Christmas with us

AWFM Update

This year we celebrated our 20th anniversary from when Martin originally established his IFA business. A terrific time was had at Chislehurst Golf Club in September and thank you so much to all who attended and for your kind words.



Sean Knights joined the business at the end of 2016 and has settled in incredibly well. We have had some staffing difficulties over the last 12 months and after a few false starts, Jack Barratt joined us in October. Jack has joined with the massive head-start of a 2:1 Economics degree from Bristol University and already he has used some of his learning to good effect.

Qualifications are important to us and both Edward and Jack will be taking the relevant exams in the Diploma of Regulated Financial Planning over the years to enhance their skills and understanding. News hot off the press is that Jon has just

passed the Advanced AF7 Pension Transfers paper which now allows him to oversee his own pension transfer work. (Martin passed the fore-runner of this exam back in July 2000.) Sean has also been accepted into the Fellowship of the CISI (Chartered Institute for Securities and Investments).

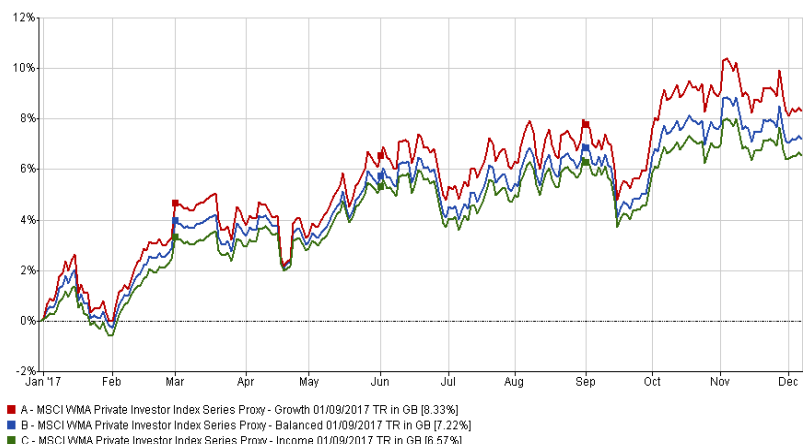
We continue to welcome new clients to the business and this year has been a record year for us. Much of the new work we have undertaken has been around people wishing to transfer out of Defined Benefits Pension schemes. We recently asked an external firm to audit all of our processes and we are pleased to confirm that we were given an excellent rating especially when it came to the way we presented our advice to our clients, as well as our record keeping and file maintenance.

The year ahead brings challenges in the form of the updated financial services regulatory known as MiFID II although the impact of this on our business is going to be minimal. In May we will have to be fully compliant with the GDPR regulations. We are working on this as you would expect, but again we believe that the impact is going to be relatively contained.

Brief update on Investment Performance

Most of this year we have been able to deliver very positive news as far as investment fund performance is concerned whether you have been a low, medium or higher risk investor.

Interest rates have increased by a very small amount, and only back to 0.5% and whilst inflation is high, we do not believe that interest rates are going to increase very quickly from here.



30/12/2016 - 07/12/2017 Data from FE 2017

It will be very interesting to see what 2018 brings.

Suddenly a great company of heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests". ~ Luke 2: 13 and 14 (NIV version)

Help for the Homeless

Each year we choose to buy relatively cheap Christmas cards rather than have them printed. The money we save on this we are then able to direct to a charity of our choice.

This year we want to support the work of the Bexley Winter Shelter which was set up in 2016 and opened to guests in January this year. Churches of the Borough of Bexley have joined together to provide the venues, a hot meal and somewhere safe to sleep for up to 12 homeless men each night of the week in the months of January to March.

Often homelessness occurs through no fault of the homeless and may be symptomatic of other challenges faced whether they be related to finance, failed relationships or addiction, for example. We are therefore pleased to support this work in our community which we hope will help more of their guests in their efforts to be re-housed, employed and ultimately to overcome the underlying issues they face. The shelters are staffed throughout the night by volunteers and, as temperatures are already falling below freezing, they are preparing to receive guests again from 3rd January.



Other News

We learned that from this month NS&I have increased the odds of Premium Bonds holders winning a prize – from 30,000 to 24,500 to 1 ! There is of course a smaller chance of winning one of two £1m prizes each month in addition to which, if you aren't feeling lucky, you can always get back your investment at short notice.

..and for the ornithologists : fantastic news at River House as we (twice) catch sight of a visiting Kingfisher – clearly working harder than we were as he surveyed the pond below our office.



Vacancy for Office Junior

As a business we are continuing to develop and move forward. The new office has been fabulous for us. To this end, we are still looking for a new Office Junior . We are looking for someone who, ideally, has good skills in English and Maths, is presentable and able to communicate well. If you know of anyone, we would love to hear from them and the vacancy appears on our website.



Celebrate Christmas with us at Trinity

If you are in or around Bexleyheath this Christmas and you would like to come to one of our Christmas services at Trinity Baptist Church (www.trinitybexleyheath.org.uk)

This year **all of the partners** have signed up to participate in the Christmas Choir. The main performance will be our Carols by Candlelight service which this year is on **Christmas Eve at 5pm**. Jon and Martin are again the mainstay of the Bass section but we are delighted that Sean this year is debuting as a Tenor! Other Christmas services are:

- Sunday 17th Dec: Children's Nativity Service, 10:30am
- Christmas Day Family Service, 10:00am (for approximately 1 hour)

If you are planning to come to any of these please do let us know so that we can look out for you. It's also worth aiming to arrive *at least* ten minutes before the start of the service to ensure you get a seat. We do have plenty of room but gladly the church often fills up fast!

Christmas Blessings!

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