



360



from **AW Financial Management LLP**

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Welcome to our Christmas edition of 360. This is our usual slimmed down Christmas edition of our quarterly newsletter which has been designed to accompany our Christmas greetings to you.

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Global Markets and your portfolio

2015 has been a fairly torrid year for many. Rolls Royce went from £8.70 per share down to £5.90 per share. Royal Dutch Shell went from £22.39 to £15.99 per share. Morrison Supermarkets went from £1.82 to £1.47 and exited the top 100 UK companies list. In fact the FTSE 100 has produced a total loss of 1.68% throughout 2015, even with dividends reinvested.

In the main, despite these travails, the WMA Balanced benchmark that we tend to track for most of our clients has produced a positive return of 2.72% in the year to date. Whilst this is probably below the average expectation for a year's return from this type of medium risk portfolio, at some stages in the year this benchmark was showing an 8% return. Returns have been broadly negative over the last 6 months of the year, dragged down by worries over China and interest rates rising in the US. As ever with investing, one must accept these short term market downturns in order to benefit from better long term returns.

Over the last year we have found that many of the returns from our clients' portfolios have significantly outperformed the benchmark returns and we will continue to try to "add value" in this way.

As we consider the returns on investment funds, it is usually quite common to look at the problems facing the world at the present time. At this Christmas time it is worth focussing our attention on those less fortunate than ourselves. Some of the atrocities meted out by terrorists and fanatics over this last year will have left many families scarred for the rest of their lives. We pray for comfort and peace to be with these innocent families as Christmas approaches.

AWFM News

Earlier in the year, prior to David joining the team, we decorated the office after 9 years of wear and tear. Nicola project managed this task. The whole process went very well and we took the opportunity to upgrade some of our older IT equipment as well as to obtain much smarter matching desks.

The big news is that a few weeks ago, David proposed to his girlfriend Sarah and you'll be delighted to know that she said "Yes"! They are hoping to be married by this time next year—congratulations to you both.



Jon & Helen, with their son David, managed to move house this year to a larger family home now in Bexleyheath. They were featured in the Times Autumn Statement Supplement the day after the Chancellor delivered his update to the nation.

Jon and Martin were also delighted to attend the induction of Gary Wilson (former partner in the business for those who don't know) and his wife Alison as Mission Pastors in St Cedd's Barkingside. It has been terrific to be part of their journey of faith and we pray that God will use them powerfully in this new ministry.

Martin continues as the Chairman of the Association of Christian Financial Advisers. He organised the annual conference for 40 plus attendees in October where Jon & David led the worship. Martin continues to be part of the leadership team at Trinity Baptist Church, whilst Jon leads the worship band. Martin also continues as a Trustee of CRIBS—a role he has undertaken for the last 16 years or so.

And finally, after 27 years of trying, Martin got his first hole-in-one on the 5th hole at Chislehurst Golf Club. He's so pleased with himself he wanted this photo of himself in this newsletter!



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to me on whom his favour rests."

Luke Chapter 2 verse 14

Our Charity Support this year:



This relatively new charity seeks to provide befriending and support to the elderly and the vulnerable in our society (within the Bexley Borough). Whilst many elderly folk have family relatively close to them, if they don't, it is very easy for them to cut off from society and they can feel very alone. It is the simple befriending service that this charity is involved in which is so wonderful. It is clear that the State is under pressure to provide such a basic level of care, that it must be the charitable sector that steps into this space.

Evergreen also provide Home Support, Cleaning Teams and a Trusted Trades & Professionals list. This Charity only started a few years ago, responding to a real need identified in our neighbourhoods. Whilst the befriending service relies on a large team of volunteers, the Charity does need both more volunteers as well as funding to help it grow and establish itself.

The Partners at AWFM are delighted to give their Charitable donation this year of £300 to Evergreen Care Bexley. It is a small contribution to aid with their work. If readers are interested, they can be found at

www.evergreencarebexley.org

For those who don't know, we buy relatively cheap Christmas cards, rather than have them printed, so that any saving we make, we can direct to a Charity of our choice.

Christmas ...

As in past years, if you are in the area and would like to come along to one of our Christmas services, Jon & Martin (along with their wives Helen and Andrea) would be delighted to see you.

The key Christmas services at Trinity Baptist Church Bexleyheath this year are as follows:

- Sunday 20th December—10.30am—Family Christmas Service led by Godzone (the children's groups which Andrea, Martin's wife heads up)
- Sunday 20th December— 5pm—Carols by Candlelight including a Choir, again incorporating both Jon, Martin and Helen (Jon's wife)
- Thursday 25th December—10.00am—Christmas morning service (will last for one hour)

If you are coming, please do a) let us know so that we can look out for you and b) arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of the service to ensure you get a seat. There's plenty of room but the Church does fill up fast!

We will close the office early on Christmas Eve and we won't be open between Christmas and New Year. We will return to the office on the 4th January.

Be blessed this Christmas time. Martin, Jon & the team



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