

# Market Insights with M&G Wealth

26 October 2023

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# Agenda

1

Regime change in fixed income markets

2

Dynamic asset allocation

3

Our approach to Fixed Income

4

Fixed Income and Cash

#### Speakers

- Michael Watt, Investment Director, Treasury & Investment Office
- Alastair Clark, Portfolio Manager, M&G Wealth

# Regime Change & fixed income

# 2023 so far - bonds have lagged equities again

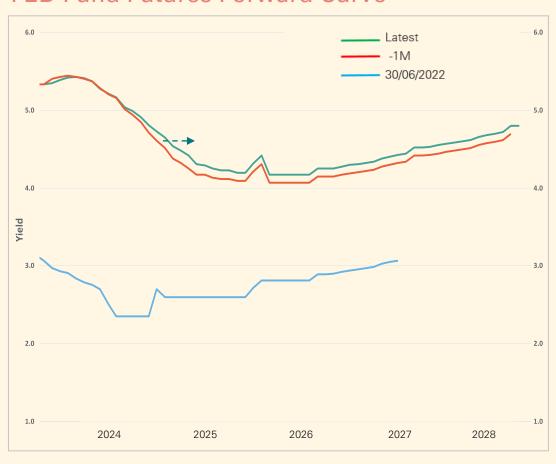
#### Year to date returns per asset class as at 30<sup>th</sup> September



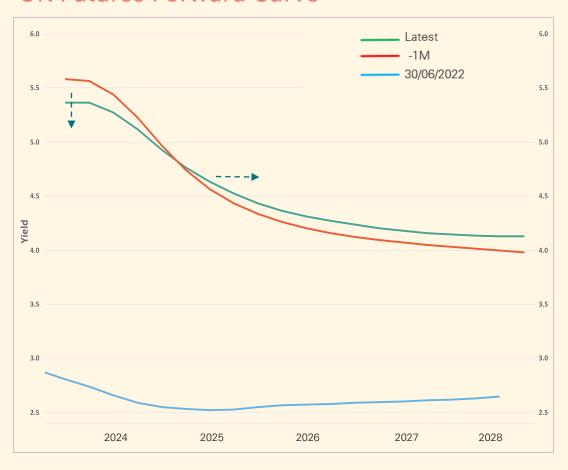
Source: FactSet, data to 30/09/2023, equity returns in GBP, bond returns are hedged

### Central banks 'pause' in September

#### **FED Fund Futures Forward Curve**



#### **UK Futures Forward Curve**



Source: LSEG Datastream & M&G Treasury and Investment Office, Multi Asset Portfolio Management Team (MAPM) as at 17.10.2023 Source: LSEG Datastream & M&G Treasury and Investment Office, Multi Asset Portfolio Management (MAPM) team as at 17.10.2023

## Cyclical highs in 10-year yields

Longer-dated bond yields have moved higher again – Factors at play:

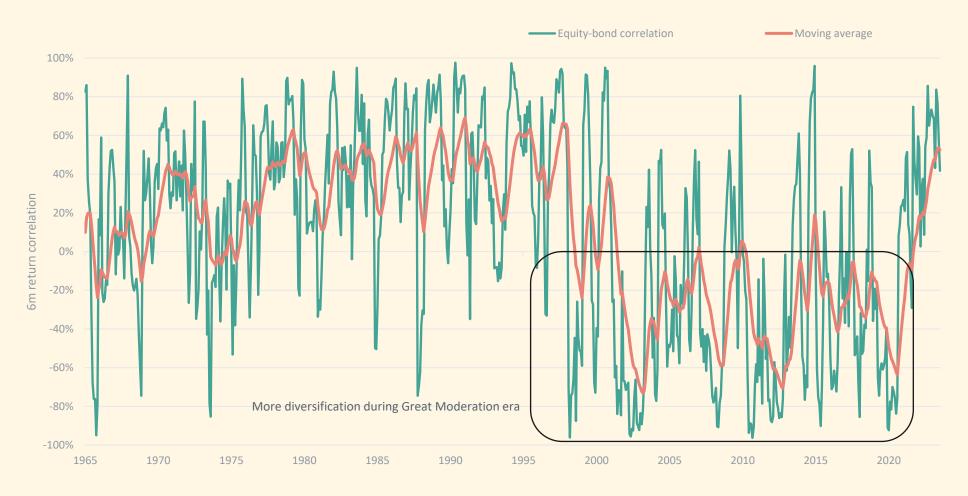
- Resilience in economic data suggesting economies may be able to withstand higher rates.
- Investors need to be compensated for more government borrowing
- And less demand from Central Banks

#### 10-year government bond yields



# Fading diversification

#### **Equity-Bond correlation**



Source: Datastream & M&G Treasury & Investment Office, Long Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) Team, Calculations as at 31st July 2023. Correlations between monthly returns for S&P 500 and US Treasuries.

### New challenges for policymakers and investors

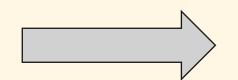
Trade fragmentation

Peaking demographics

Elevated public debt

Geopolitical rivalry

Climate emergency



**Impact** 

New supply constraints

Higher economic volatility

More constraints for policymakers

More challenging return environment

Shifting correlations

# Fading diversification impacting volatility

#### Annualised monthly return volatility on 60:40 portfolio



Source: Datastream & M&G Treasury and Investment Office, Long Term Investment Strategy Team (LTIS) Calculations as at 31st July 2023. Correlations between monthly returns for S&P 500 and US Treasuries.

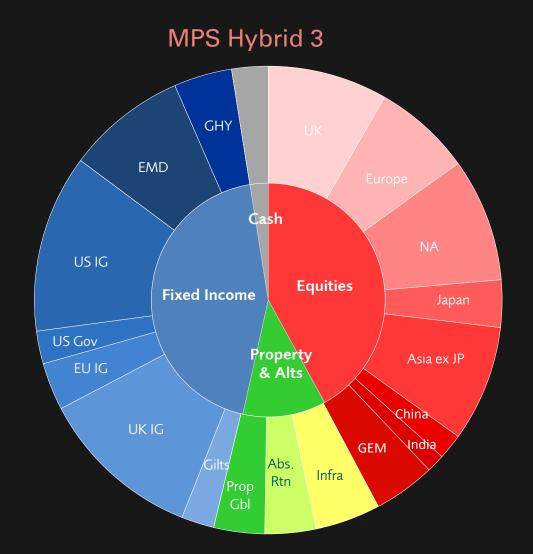
# Dynamic Asset Allocation

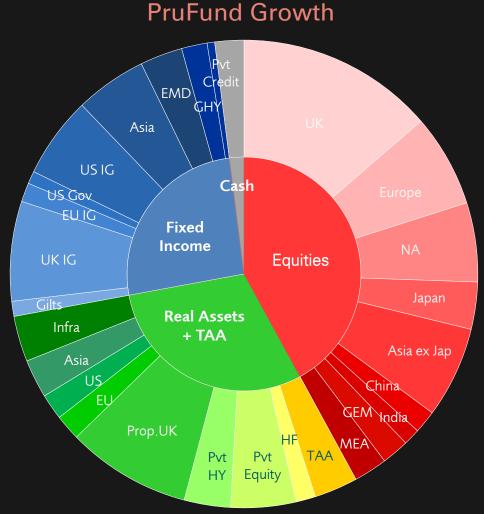
# **Key Changes**



# 2023 Strategic Asset Allocation

#### A forward looking approach





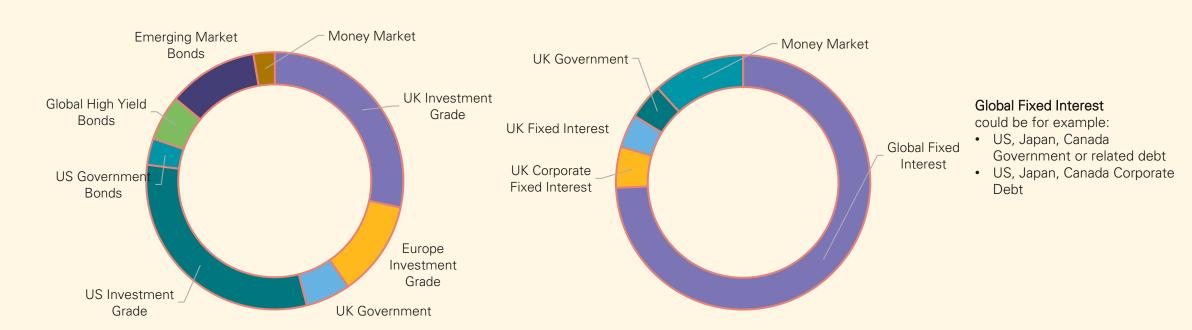
# Our approach to Fixed Income

#### Fixed Income – M&G Wealth vs Peers

- Specific regional asset allocation driven by M&G Treasury and Investment Office
- Inflation and policy differs regionally e.g. UK vs US and DM vs EM; this creates dispersion across fixed income asset-classes
- Greater diversification and risk reduction

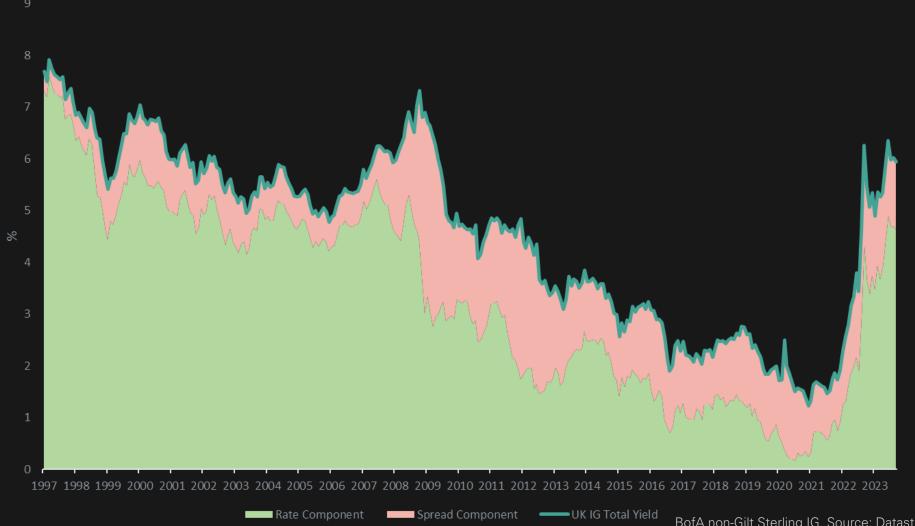
M&G Wealth Investments MPS - Hybrid Fixed Income Asset Allocation

Investment Association Sectors Mixed Inv. 0-35%- Fixed Income Asset Allocation



### Corporate bonds provide natural diversification

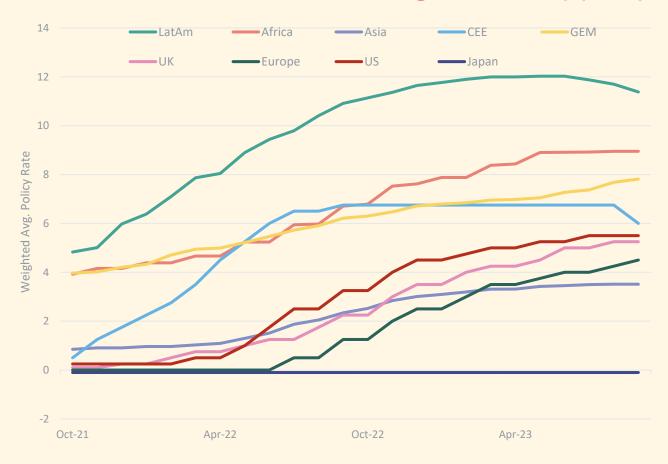
Different drivers through the economic cycle



## More diversification and 'levers to pull'

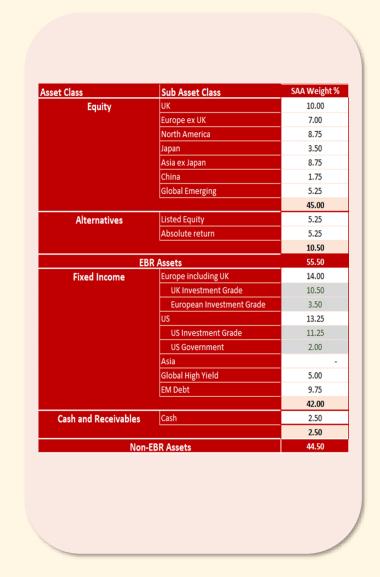
- Strong credibility around EM Central Banks.
- Key EM economies have either benefited from commodity price inflation or experienced lower levels of inflation.
- There is a diverging monetary policy back-drop
- And positive real yields.

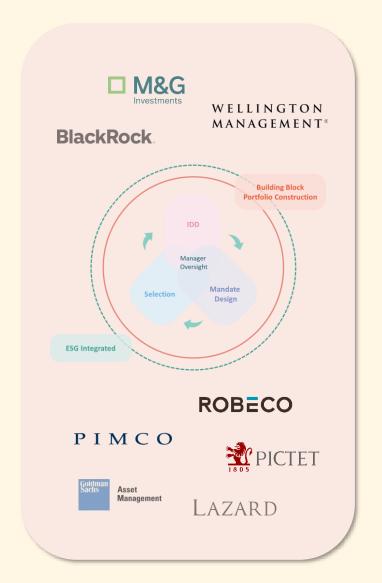
#### LATAM & CCE take lead on easing of monetary policy



Source: Datastream 09/10/2023. Weighted average policy rate refers to LTIS portfolio weights to the countries composing the regions. For Europe we use the ECB short term Repo rate. Within LatAm we exclude Argentina and Uruguay that make up <10% of the portfolio. CEE policy rate is represented by Poland alone.

### Granular allocation means better expertise





Indicative asset allocation and selection of underlying managers.

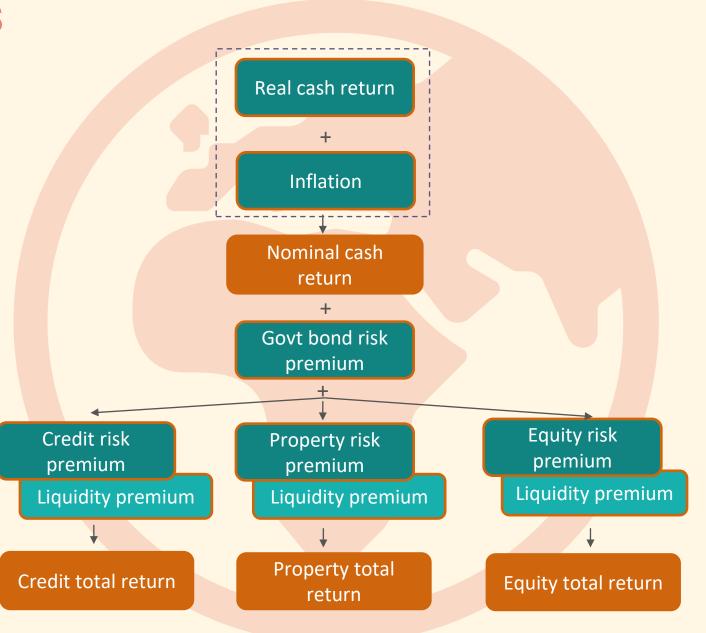
# Fixed Income and Cash

Return Assumptions

Long term growth outlook

Long term inflation

Long term monetary policy



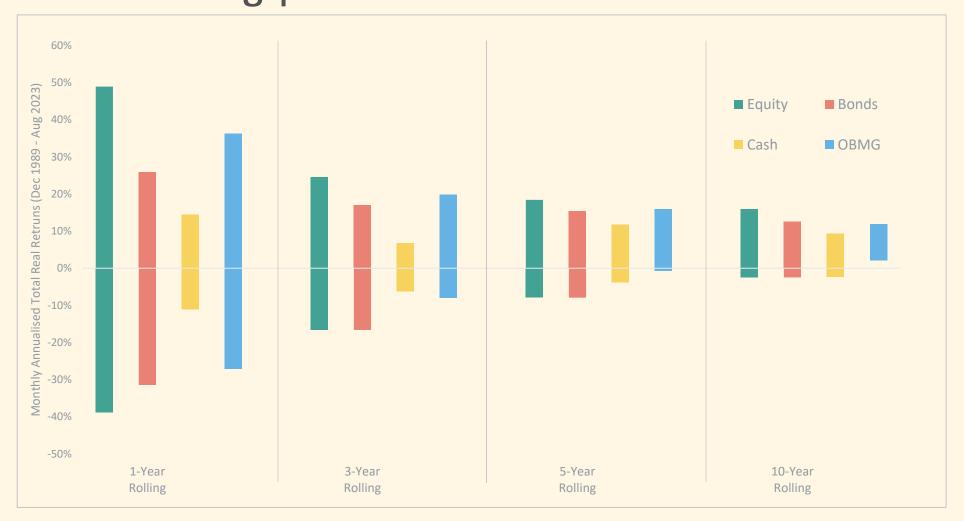
#### Bonds are back in town!

#### Cash rate, fixed income yields and expected inflation



Source: FactSet, 20/20/2023

# Time in the market brings assurance Favourable starting point for valuations



Source: Datastream. 31.08.2023. Month end values: Equity (FTSE All-Share), Bonds (UK Benchmark 10 Year Datastream Gov't Index), Cash (JP Morgan 3-Month UK Cash Index), Inflation (ONS Consumer Price Index). OBMG represents Prudential WP Asset Share. The 1-Year Rolling reflects the maximum and minimum real returns experienced from two month ends 1 year apart since December 1989. Rolling 3,5 & 10-year show CAGR required to have made the maximum or minimum real returns in between two month ends 3,5, and 10 years apart respectively. Past performance does not guarantee future performance.

#### Products & Services Overview

M&G's Treasury & Investment Office sets the strategic asset allocation and building blocks for each product or service. Similar themes and views are present in each offering.

#### PruFund

- Pooled fund with smoothed prices
- Can buy/sell once a month
- Significant exposure to private/illiquid assets
- ESG approach available (PruFund Planet)

#### PruFolio

- Pooled fund
- Can buy/sell each day at current market prices
- Passive and Active funds available

#### Model Portfolio Service

- Client owns individual funds that make up the model
- Can buy/sell each day at current market prices
- Passive, active and ESG services available

# Thanks for your time

Get in touch with your usual contact if you need further help.



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