Registered number: 00947644

# ST. JAMES'S PLACE UNIT TRUST GROUP LIMITED

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020



# **COMPANY INFORMATION**

Directors T C Beal

R J Gardner C G Gentle E Griffin\* D Hyams\* S M Meech

\*independent non-executive director

Company secretary St. James's Place Corporate Secretary Limited

Registered number 00947644

Registered office St. James's Place House

1 Tetbury Road Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 1FP

Independent auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

7 More London Riverside

London SE1 2RT

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# STRATEGIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

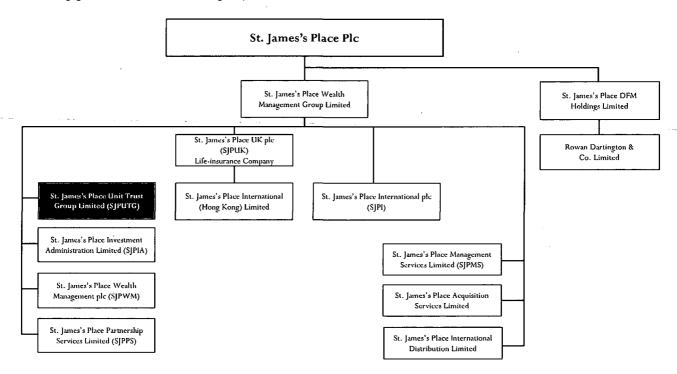
### INTRODUCTION

St. James's Place Unit Trust Group Limited (the "Company") is a wholly-owned subsidiary of St. James's Place Wealth Management Group Limited. The Company is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to transact Unit Trusts in the United Kingdom.

The Company is a private limited company registered in England.

### **Group Overview**

St. James's Place is an award-winning wealth management group and a FTSE 100 business with a track record of strong growth. An extract of the group structure is shown below.



Face-to-face advice is core to the St. James's Place Group's (the "Group" or "St. James's Place") business model. This is delivered through the Group's dedicated distribution firm, St. James's Place Wealth Management plc, which manages the St. James's Place Partnership, and which is focused on building and supporting long-term relationships with our clients.

Financial advice is complemented and supported by our compelling investment proposition (the Investment Management Approach – "IMA"). The IMA offers a unique approach enabling investment management of underlying assets to be contracted out to a range of investment management firms, carefully selected by our independent committee of experts from the global population of fund managers.

# STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# **INTRODUCTION** (continued)

In order to be able to provide the appropriate investment solution for each client's particular circumstances and needs, the IMA is made available through a variety of UK investment product solutions. The principal products manufactured by Group companies, and which are, in general, made available through the St. James's Place Partnership, are:

Company	Product	
St. James's Place UK plc	UK-based unit-linked savings Unit-linked pension savings Unit-linked drawdown	
St. James's Place Investment Administration Limited	Unit Trusts Individual Savings Accounts ("ISAs")	
St. James's Place International plc	Offshore unit-linked savings	

In order to allow the IMA to be delivered consistently through all product wrappers, the majority of the unit-linked insurance investment ranges are facilitated through cross-investment into a core range of St. James's Place Unit Trusts (managed by St. James Place Unit Trust Group Limited), which are the same Unit Trusts made available directly and through an ISA by St. James's Place Investment Administration Limited.

The Company collects an Annual Management Charge ("AMC") from the range of Unit Trusts that it manages, from which it pays a share to St. James's Place Investment Administration Limited as remuneration for client administration services provided. In addition, the Company pays an Ongoing Advice Charge ("OAC") to St. James's Place Wealth Management plc ("SJPWM") when the client has requested ongoing advice services.

St. James's Place Management Services Limited facilitates employment for the Group and management of expenses, while St. James's Place Partnership Services Limited acts as a treasury company for the Group, securing funding and managing lending by the Group.

Further information about St. James's Place, the St. James's Place Partnership, the St. James's Place approach to fund management and the IMA, and the full range of wealth management products, is included within the Strategic Report of the St. James's Place plc Annual Report and Accounts.

### **BUSINESS REVIEW**

The profit for the financial year amounted to £92.9m (2019 - £86.8m). Net assets at the end of the year totalled £46.5m (2019 - £50.1m).

In its capacity as a unit trust manager, the Company manages 51 different unit trusts (2019 - 48), of which 43 (2019 - 43) are classified under the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Scheme Sourcebook as UCITS funds and 8 (2019 - 5) as NURS funds.

The Company's growth in turnover of 5.0% (2019 - 9.6%) arose principally through increased funds under management.

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Company is committed to ensuring that its investment proposition remains relevant and will continue to develop the range of funds available to clients and launch new unit trusts as appropriate.

# STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### **CURRENT RISK ENVIRONMENT**

Over the past year, the emergence and impact of COVID-19 has been a major external risk event. No event of this nature can be precisely forecast and planned for; however, through our approach to the fundamentals of risk management, the Company (and the wider Group) has been able to demonstrate resilience, from a financial and operational perspective, against COVID-19. We remain highly confident in our ability to withstand further challenges that may or may not emerge.

We remain acutely aware of the changing threat to health, further restrictions and the longer-term potential macro-economic impacts; however, whilst this could further impact profitability, we continue to be confident of the ongoing resilience to risk and the viability of the Company.

Some of the key risk considerations around COVID-19 for the Company have been and continue to be:

- Safety and wellbeing of all of our stakeholders
- Maintaining operational continuity whilst working remotely and social distancing
- The impact on financial markets
- Changes in investor sentiment impacting new business inflows and retention
- Managing risks to client outcomes
- Managing operational risks

When the risk considerations from COVID-19 are broken down in this way, we can recognise that these are risks with which the Group is familiar (included in the principal risk section) and to which the Group has shown to be resilient through our ongoing stress and scenario testing, as well as financial and operational risk assessments. Further information on stress and scenario testing, and the impact of COVID-19 on the Group, are set out in the St. James's Place plc 2020 Annual Report and Accounts.

In addition to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, the short and longer-term consequences of Brexit impact upon investor sentiment and the wider external environment in which the Company operates. Stress and scenario testing has been performed, which demonstrates that the business is resilient, and we continually monitor the changing environment, to ensure our analysis and scenario testing remains appropriate.

# STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Company operates within the St. James's Place Group 'Risk Management Framework'. More information on the Risk Management Framework, including the risk management policies and procedures that are applicable to the Company and the Group is provided in the St. James's Place plc Annual Report and Accounts.

Over the past year, the continued uncertainties around Brexit and international trade have impacted investor sentiment. Whilst some of the UK political uncertainties have recently reduced, global economic factors, such as the impact on trade of the Coronavirus, continue to impact on markets and investor behaviour. While the Company and Group has very little direct exposure to market risk because of our matching policy (where we hold assets which match our liability to clients), the Company and Group does have indirect exposure because of the impact it has on new business and funds under management. Stress and scenario testing has been performed which demonstrates that the businesses is resilient to extreme but plausible scenarios. We continually monitor the changing environment, to ensure our analysis and scenario testing remains current. Although scenarios of political change (Brexit, general elections and trade wars) can drive changes in risk, the potential impacts on our business would manifest in ways with which we are familiar. Notably, market risk, persistency risk, changes in new business levels and operational risks.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Company are set out below.

Risk	Risk Description	Key risks	Example controls
Administration service	We fail to deliver good quality administration services to clients and advisers.	Clients and advisers receive poor policy administration     Failure of key administration system change projects     Administrative complexity	Management of administration centres to ensure key service standards are met     Continuous development of technology     Effective planning of large-scale change projects     Ongoing activity to reduce administrative complexity and ensure operational resilience
Client proposition	Our product proposition fails to meet the needs, objectives and expectations of our clients. This includes poor relative investment performance and poor product design.	<ul> <li>Investments provide poor returns relative to their benchmarks and/or do not deliver expected client outcomes</li> <li>Range of solutions does not align with the product and service requirements of our current and potential future clients</li> <li>Failure to meet client expectations of a sustainable business, not least in respect of responsible investing</li> </ul>	Regular monitoring of manufactured products' performance Monitoring of investment performance and selection of the most appropriate funds from a risk/net return perspective Continuous development of the range of services offered to clients Engagement with fund managers around principles of responsible investment
Financial	We fail to effectively manage the business finances.	<ul> <li>Failure to meet client liabilities</li> <li>Investment/Market risk</li> <li>Credit risk</li> <li>Expense risk</li> <li>Liquidity risk</li> </ul>	Excess assets generally invested in high quality, high liquidity cash and cash equivalents     Ongoing monitoring of all risk exposures and experiences     Acceptance of market and persistency risk impact on profit     Monitoring and management of individual entities solvency to minimise Group interdependency
Group support	We fail to receive services supplied from a fellow Group company.	<ul> <li>Failure in provision of human resources</li> <li>Failure to protect the St. James's Place brand</li> <li>Loss of distinctive culture</li> </ul>	Contractual service arrangements in place for key services provided by fellow Group subsidiaries     Vertical integration aligns the delivery of services to the entity with the wider objectives of the Group     Key executive management committees include representation of interests for the relevant Group subsidiaries     Specific matters reserved to each entity board     The controls around the Group's risks can be found in the Group's Annual Report and Accounts

# STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Outsourcing	Third party outsourcers' activities impacts our performance and risk management.	Operational failures by material outsourcers     Failure of critical service, significant areas include:          Investment administration          Fund management          Custody          Policy administration          Cloud services	Oversight regime in place to identify prudent steps to reduce risk of operational failures by material third-party providers     Ongoing monitoring, including assessments of operational resilience     Due diligence of key suppliers
Regulatory	We fail to meet current, changing or new regulatory and legislative expectations.	<ul> <li>Failure to comply with changing regulation</li> <li>Inadequate internal controls</li> <li>Failure to respond to regulatory driven changes to the industry in which we operate</li> <li>Solvency Risk</li> </ul>	Compliance functions provide expert guidance and carry out extensive assurance work     Strict controls are maintained in highly regulated areas     Maintainance of appropriate solvency capital buffers, and continuous monitoring of solvency experience     Fostering of positive regulatory relationships
Security & Resilience	We fail to adequately secure our physical assets, systems and/or sensitive information, or to deliver critical business services to our clients.	<ul> <li>Internal or external fraud</li> <li>Core system failure</li> <li>Corporate, Partnership, or third-party, information security and cyber risks</li> <li>Disruption in key business services to our clients</li> </ul>	Business continuity planning for SJP and its key suppliers     Identification, communication, and response planning for the event of cyber crime     Data leakage detection technology and incident reporting systems     Internal awareness programmes     Identification and assessment of critical business services
Strategy, competition and brand	Challenge from competitors and the impact of reputational damage.	<ul> <li>Increased competitive pressure from traditional and disruptive (non-traditional) competitors</li> <li>Cost and charges pressure</li> <li>Negative media coverage</li> </ul>	Clear demonstration of value delivered to clients through advice, service and products Investment in improving positive brand recognition Ongoing development of client and Partner propositions Proactive engagement with external agencies including media, industry groups and regulators

# FINANCIAL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Directors of St. James's Place plc manage the Group's operations on a group basis. The development, performance and position of St. James's Place plc, which includes the Company is discussed in the Group's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which can be obtained from the address shown in the ultimate controlling party note at the end of these financial statements.

Of the Group's key performance indicators, the following are deemed to be relevant to the Company's financial statements.

During the year, the net fee income earned from funds under management increased by 5.5% to £311.1m from £295.0m.

Funds under management as at 31 December 2020 were £117.7bn (2019 - £105.2bn).

# STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# **SECTION 172(1) STATEMENT**

Section 172 of the Companies Act 2006 requires a director of a company to act in the way he or she considers, in good faith, would most likely promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole. In doing this section 172 requires a director to have regard, amongst other matters, to the:

- likely consequences of any decisions in the long-term;
- interests of the company's employees;
- need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others;
- impact of the company's operations on the community and environment;
- · desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct, and
- need to act fairly as between members of the company.

In discharging our section 172 duties we have regard to the factors set out above. We also have regard to other factors which we consider relevant to the decision being made. Those factors, for example, include the interests and views of our key stakeholders. We acknowledge that every decision we make will not necessarily result in a positive outcome for all of our stakeholders. By considering the Company's purpose, vision and values together with its strategic priorities and having a process in place for decision-making, we do, however, aim to make sure that our decisions are consistent and predictable.

As part of a vertically integrated financial services group (the "Group"), the Company's stakeholders are entirely aligned with the key stakeholders of the wider Group, being shareholders, Partners, employees, clients and society (represented by a number of groups including government, regulators, suppliers and the wider community), although some of those are more prominent for us as a subsidiary than others. The Group as a whole is focused on ensuring value is generated and preserved over the long-term for all of its stakeholders and the core of our strategy is the long-term relationship St. James's Place and the Partnership have with our clients. This is what ultimately drives long-term value for shareholders and other stakeholders and could not be achieved if we did not seek to maintain a reputation for high standards of business conduct.

As is normal for organisations, authority for day-to-day management of this Company and the Group's other wholly-owned subsidiaries is delegated to executives. The boards of each company then engage management in setting, approving and overseeing execution of the business strategy and related policies, where relevant to that company. Throughout the year we, as a Board, review matters such as financial and operational performance, key risks, governance and regulatory compliance and the impact of decisions and policies affecting our key stakeholders.

The views of and the impact of the Company's activities on the key stakeholders are an important consideration for the Directors when making relevant decisions. Our governance framework is designed to provide opportunities for the Board to consider and discuss reports and decision-making papers which are sent in advance of each periodic Board meeting. The information contained therein, together with presentations to the Board, provide the insight necessary to understand the interests and concerns of key stakeholders and other relevant factors when making decisions. An example from 2020 that illustrates how this has contributed to our compliance with our section 172 duty to promote the success of the company is set out below.

Example	Consideration
Unit-holders, Clients, Partners, Society	Following the introduction by the FCA of new rules requiring UK authorised fund managers to assess the overall value that their authorised funds deliver to investors, the Company published its first Value Assessment Statement (VAS) in 2020. The VAS sets out where value is delivered, where more could be done to generate value and the actions intended to be taken where value is not being achieved. The Board played a significant role in overseeing the production of our first VAS, closely monitoring its development, regularly reviewing drafts and challenging management on both its structure and content. The VAS provided us with an opportunity to clarify client and Partner expectations and shape our reporting to enable clients and Partners to monitor and evaluate the value of our funds. Feedback in the lead up and following the publication of the VAS provided valuable insight that helped with the design of that publication and our overall reporting to clients and other stakeholders going forward.

### STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

While there are cases where the Board itself judges that it should engage directly with certain stakeholder groups or on certain issues, the size and spread of both our stakeholders and the Group means that generally our stakeholder engagement best takes place at an operational or Group level. We find that as well as being a more efficient and effective approach, this also helps us achieve a greater positive impact on environmental, social and other issues than by working alone as an individual company. For details on the engagement that takes place with the Company's stakeholders so as to encourage the Directors to understand the issues to which they must have regard please see the Section 172(1) Statement in the St. James's Place plc 2020 Annual Report and Accounts.

### **GOING CONCERN**

The going concern basis has been adopted in preparing these Financial Statements.

The Company's capital position remains strong and well in excess of regulatory requirements. Further, the longterm nature of the business results in considerable positive cash flows arising from existing business.

The Board has considered the potential impact of COVID-19 on the business, including the associated impact of the economic volatility on funds under management and the Company's financial results. Given the uncertainty, the Board have reviewed and take comfort from the Group's assessment of going concern as outlined in the St. James's Place plc Annual Report & Accounts where additional stress tests have been undertaken focussing particularly on reductions in new business and investment markets.

In addition, the Board has considered the operational impacts of COVID-19, including through its key outsourced providers. It noted that during the most challenging of years the business demonstrated real resilience supported by recent technological investment, together with the agility of both advisers and employees. This, along with our key outsource providers, who also adapted well to the changing environment, supports its view that that the business will continue to remain operationally resilient.

As a result of its review, the Board believes that the Group will continue to operate, with neither the intention nor the necessity of liquidation, ceasing trading or seeking protection from creditors pursuant to laws or regulations for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the Group Financial Statements.

As a result of its review, the Board concluded that it was reasonable to expect the Company to continue as a unit trust management company for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 24 February 2021 and signed on its behalf on the same date by:

C G Gentle Director

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# DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The Company acts as a unit trust manager.

### **RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS**

The profit for the financial year amounted to £92.9m (2019 - £86.8m).

Dividends totalling £96.5m (2019 - £84.5m) were paid during the year. The Directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend (2019 - £NIL).

### **DIRECTORS**

The Directors who served during the year and up to the date of the signing of the financial statements were:

T C Beal

R J Gardner

C G Gentle

E Griffin (appointed 20 February 2020)

D Hyams

S M Meech

R P Yates (resigned 4 May 2020)

### **EMPLOYEES**

The Company has no employees (2019 - NIL).

# **DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE**

St. James's Place plc ("SJP"), the ultimate parent company, has taken out insurance covering Directors and officers against liabilities they may incur in their capacity as Directors or officers of SJP or its subsidiaries. All members of the Board of SJP who act as Directors of subsidiary companies are each granted indemnities whilst acting in their capacity as Directors or officers to the extent permitted by law. These indemnities are uncapped in amount and protect recipients from certain losses and liabilities that they may incur to third parties in connection with the furtherance of their duties as Directors or officers of SJP or its subsidiary companies. Copies of the indemnities are available to shareholders upon request. This is a qualifying third party indemnity provision and was in force during the financial year and at the date of approval of the financial statements.

### MATTERS COVERED IN THE STRATEGIC REPORT

Future developments, financial risk management and going concern are all referred to in the Strategic Report set out on pages 1 to 7 of the financial statements in accordance with Section 414c(11) of the Companies Act 2006.

A summary of how the Directors' have had regard to the need to foster the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others, and the effect of that regard, including on the principal decisions taken by the Company during the financial year is set out in the Strategic Report within the Section 172 (1) Statement on pages 6 to 7.

# DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### **DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

Each of the persons who are Directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the Director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- the Director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 24 February 2021 and signed on its behalf on the same date by:

C G Gentle Director

# DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the audited financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare audited financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', and applicable law). Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period.

In preparing these audited financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES'S PLACE UNIT TRUST GROUP LIMITED

# Report on the audit of the financial statements

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, St. James's Place Unit Trust Group Limited's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020; the statement of comprehensive income; the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended; and the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

# Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Strategic Report and Directors' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES'S PLACE UNIT TRUST GROUP LIMITED (CONTINUED)

opinions and matters as described below.

Strategic Report and Directors' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2020 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report.

### Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 10, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the company and industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of UK regulatory principles, such as those governed by the Financial Conduct Authority', and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase revenue. Audit procedures performed included:

- Enquiries of compliance, risk, internal audit, and the Group's legal function, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Reading key correspondence with the Financial Conduct Authority in relation to compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes including those of the Board of Directors;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations or posted by senior management; and
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES'S PLACE UNIT TRUST GROUP LIMITED (CONTINUED)

or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

# Other required reporting

# Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Andrew Moore (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

London

24 February 2021

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £000	2019 £000
Turnover		305,743	291,062
Cost of sales	3	(15,888)	(20,229)
GROSS PROFIT	-	289,855	270,833
Administrative expenses	_	(175,520)	(164,242)
OPERATING PROFIT	_	114,335	106,591
Interest receivable and similar income	_	299	465
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		114,634	107,056
Income tax	6	(21,739)	(20,281)
PROFIT AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	:	92,895	86,775

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2020 or 2019 other than those included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

# ST. JAMES'S PLACE UNIT TRUST GROUP LIMITED REGISTERED NUMBER: 00947644

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note		2020 £000		2019 £000
CURRENT ASSETS					
RECEIVABLES: Amounts falling due within one year	8	335,032		258,570	
Other investments	9	49,002		30,234	
Cash and cash equivalents		4,135		40,200	
	_	388,169	_	329,004	
PAYABLES: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(341,703)		(278,933)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS	_		46,466		50,071
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		-	46,466		50,071
NET ASSETS		_	46,466	_	50,071
EQUITY		_			
Share capital	11		2,000		2,000
Retained earnings			44,466		48,071
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		_	46,466		50,071

The financial statements on pages 14 to 24 were approved by the Board of Directors on 24 February 2021 and signed on its behalf on the same date by:

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C G Gentle Director

The notes and information on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Share capital £000	Retained earnings £000	Total equity £000
At 1 January 2020	2,000	48,071	50,071
Profit for the financial year Dividends: Equity capital	-	92,895 (96,500)	92,895 (96,500)
At 31 December 2020	2,000	44,466	46,466
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019	Share capital	Retained earnings	Total equity
	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 2019	2,000	45,796	47,796
Profit for the financial year Dividends: Equity capital	-	86,775 (84,500)	86,775 (84,500)
At 31 December 2019	2,000	48,071	50,071

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 1.1 General information

The Company is a private company limited by shares and is incorporated and domiciled in the United Kingdom.

The address of the Company's registered office is St. James's Place House, 1 Tetbury Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1FP.

### 1.2 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland', and the Companies Act 2006.

There were no critical accounting estimates or significant accounting judgements made in applying the Company's accounting policies.

The principal accounting policies of the Company, which have been applied consistently throughout the year, are set out below.

# 1.3 Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The Company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by the FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland":

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows and paragraph 3.17(d);
- the requirements of paragraphs 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.47, 11.48(a)(iii), 11.48(a)(iv), 11.48(b), 11.48(c), 12.26 (in relation to those cross-referenced paragraphs from which a disclosure exemption is available), 12.27, 12.29(a), 12.29(b), 12.29A and 12.30 provided disclosures equivalent to those required by this FRS are included in the consolidated financial statements of the Group in which the entity is consolidated; and
- the requirements of Section 33 Related Party Disclosures paragraph 33.7.

This information is included in the consolidated financial statements of St. James's Place plc as at 31 December 2020 and these financial statements may be obtained from the secretary at St. James's Place House, 1 Tetbury Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1FP.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### 1.4 Turnover

Turnover represents annual fees receivable by the Company from the management of the Company's unit trusts, less the net dealing loss incurred at the point of sale of units in the Company's range of unit trusts.

Management fees are calculated daily based on the level of funds under management on each working day and are recognised on an accruals basis.

### 1.5 Cost of sales

Cost of sales represents pre-RDR fund related commission charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income on an accruals basis.

# 1.6 Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses represent costs incurred in the ordinary activities of the Company, which include regulatory fees and other third-party expenses, which are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income on an accruals basis. This also includes a recharge from a fellow Group company for services provided to the Group as a whole, apportioned to the Company using internal metrics.

### 1.7 Income tax

Tax is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date in the United Kingdom, where the Company operates and generates income.

# 1.8 Other investments

A stock of units are held by the Company as box positions to ensure that the funds are operated in an efficient manner, and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Whilst the units held in the box belong to the Company, it does not seek to profit from these units. Investment in Collective Investment Schemes refers to holdings of high quality, highly liquid Money Market funds, containing assets which are cash and cash equivalents.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The Company recognises financial instruments when it becomes a party to the contractual arrangements of the instrument, in accordance with IFRS 9. Financial instruments are de-recognised when they are discharged or when the contractual terms expire. The Company's accounting policies in respect of financial instruments transactions are explained below:

#### Financial assets

The Company classifies its financial assets at either fair value through profit or loss, or as loans and receivables. The classification depends on the purpose for which the financial assets were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial assets at initial recognition.

#### Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise principally through the provision of goods and services to customers (e.g. trade receivables), but also incorporate other types of contractual monetary asset. They are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to their acquisition or issue, and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less provision for impairment.

Impairment provisions are recognised when there is objective evidence (such as significant financial difficulties on the part of the counterparty or default or significant delay in payment) that the Company will be unable to collect all of the amounts due under the terms receivable, the amount of such a provision being the difference between the net carrying amount and the present value of the future expected cash flows associated with the impaired receivable. For trade receivables, which are reported net, such provisions are recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised within administrative expenses in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. On confirmation that the trade receivable will not be collected, the gross carrying value of the asset is written off against the associated provision.

### Financial liabilities

The Company classifies all of its financial liabilities as liabilities at amortised cost.

# At amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost including bank borrowings are initially recognised at fair value net of any transaction costs directly attributable to the issue of the instrument. Such interest-bearing liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, which ensures that any interest expense over the period to repayment is at a constant rate on the balance of the liability carried into the Statement of Financial Position.

# 1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours, excluding money market fund investments, which are presented within Current asset investments as short-term deposits.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 2. TURNOVER

		2020 £000	2019 £000
	Net management fee income	311,071	294,973
	Retained initial charge and dealing loss	(5,328)	(3,911)
		305,743 ————————————————————————————————————	291,062
-	All turnover arose within the United Kingdom.		
3.	COST OF SALES		
		2020 £000	2019 £000
	Commission expense	15,888	20,229
4.	DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION		
		2020 £000	2019 £000
	Aggregate remuneration	574	568
	Amounts receivable under long-term incentive schemes	326	167
	Pension contributions	63	63
		963	798

The aggregate emoluments of the highest paid Director in the year were £203,840 (2019 - £207,809), and cash supplements in lieu of their defined contribution pension scheme totalled £20,412 (2019 - £14,646). The number of options the highest paid Director exercised over the shares in St. James's Place plc was NIL (2019 - NIL), and the number of shares receivable by them in respect of qualifying service was NIL (2019 - NIL).

At 31 December 2020, the number of Directors to whom retirement benefits are accruing, including those receiving cash supplements in lieu of their defined contribution pension scheme, is 4 (2019 - 4), including the highest paid Director. Retirement benefits are accrued in money purchase schemes for 4 (2019 - 4) of those Directors at the year end.

The number of Directors who exercised options over the shares in St. James's Place plc during the year while acting as Directors of this Company is 3 (2019 - 2). The number of Directors in respect of whose qualifying services shares were receivable under long-term incentive schemes is 4 (2019 - 4).

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# 5. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The statutory audit fee of £41,467 (2019 - £40,026) was paid on behalf of the Company by another Group company, St. James's Place Management Services Limited, and subsequently recharged back to the Company.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption from disclosing amounts paid for non-audit services, as these are disclosed in the Group Report and Accounts of the ultimate parent company.

### 6. INCOME TAX

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Current tax		
UK corporation tax on profit for the year Adjustments in respect of prior periods	21,740 (1)	20,283 (2)
Total current tax	21,739	20,281

# Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is lower than (2019 - lower than) the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2019 - 19%). The differences are explained below:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Profit before taxation	114,634	107,056
Profit multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2019 - 19%)  Effects of:	21,780	20,341
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of prior periods  Transfer pricing adjustments	(1) (40)	(2) (58)
Total tax charge for the year	21,739	20,281

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# 7. DIVIDENDS

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Interim dividends paid on Ordinary shares	96,500	84,500

The total interim dividends for the financial year is equivalent to £48.25 per share (2019 - £42.25 per share).

# 8. RECEIVABLES: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Trade receivables	292,875	220,703
Amounts owed by Group undertakings	452	433
Other receivables	410	446
Prepayments and accrued income	41,295	36,988
	335,032	258,570

Amounts owed by Group undertakings are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

# 9. OTHER INVESTMENTS

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Stock of units	5,002	4,034
Investment in Collective Investment Schemes	44,000	26,200
	49,002	30,234

Stock of units refers to box holdings within St. James's Place Unit Trusts.

Investment in Collective Investment Schemes refers to holdings of high quality, highly liquid Money Market funds, containing assets which are cash and cash equivalents.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# 10. PAYABLES: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Trade payables	293,065	220,603
Amounts owed to Group undertakings	18,358	26,525
Corporation tax	6,740	6,783
Other payables	11,249	12,872
Accruals and deferred income	12,291	12,150
	341,703	278,933

Amounts owed to Group undertakings are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

### 11. SHARE CAPITAL

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
2,000,000 (2019 - 2,000,000) ordinary shares of £1.00 each	2,000	2,000

# 12. RELATED PARTY BALANCES

The Company's related parties include key management personnel, the unit trusts that it manages and companies within the St. James's Place Group.

Transactions with key management personnel are exempt from disclosure.

# The Unit trusts

During the year, the Company entered into the following transactions with the unit trusts that it manages:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Net annual management fees	311,070	294,973
Creation of units	18,099,003	15,254,642
Liquidation of units	9,401,406	5,375,266

At the year-end, the Company held a stock of £5,001,880 (2019 - £4,034,381) of units in the Unit Trusts that it manages.

The total value of St. James's Place funds under management held by directors and their connected parties as at the year end was £33,814,962 (2019 - £26,726,273).

The total value of St. James's Place funds under management held by other companies within the St. James's Place Group as at the year end was £84,855,419,342 (2019 - £75,189,698,031).

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# 12. RELATED PARTY BALANCES (continued)

There were no transactions with companies within the St. James's Place Group for which disclosures is required.

At 31 December, the following amounts were outstanding:

	2020 £000	2019 £000
Intra-Group receivables, net of provision		
St. James's Place International plc	452	433
	2020	2019
Intra-Group payables	£000	£000
ilitra-Group payables		
St. James's Place Investment Administration Limited	7,487	6,855
St. James's Place Management Services Limited	9,045	10,461
St. James's Place UK plc	74	6,974
St. James's Place Wealth Management plc	1,557	1,945
St. James's Place Acquisition Services Limited	-	152
St. James's Place (Hong Kong) Limited	9	14
St. James's Place Wealth Management (Shanghai) Limited	1	-
St. James's Place International (Hong Kong) Limited	180	123
St. James's Place (Singapore) Private Limited	5	1
	18,358	26,525

# 13. ULTIMATE PARENT UNDERTAKING AND CONTROLLING PARTY

The company regarded by the Directors as the immediate parent company is St. James's Place Wealth Management Group Limited, a company registered in England and Wales.

The company regarded by the Directors as the ultimate parent company is St. James's Place plc, a company registered in England and Wales. It is also the parent undertaking of the smallest and largest group of undertakings for which group financial statements are drawn up and of which the Company is a member.

Copies of the consolidated financial statements of St. James's Place plc may be obtained from the Company Secretariat at St. James's Place House, 1 Tetbury Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1FP.

In the opinion of the Directors, St. James's Place plc is considered to be the ultimate controlling party.