

Managed Portfolio Service

Active MPS 4

As at 31 March 2026

Market commentary:

March was dominated by the outbreak of conflict in Iran, which caused significant market upheaval and brought an abrupt end to what had been a broadly positive start to the year. Rising geopolitical risk had already been a defining feature of the early months of 2026 – first with the US intervention in Venezuela, and then with President Trump’s posturing towards Greenland – but the escalation in Iran swiftly eclipsed both to command global attention.

The principal channel through which the conflict has affected markets and the wider global economy is oil prices. Initial market reaction centred on the implications for inflation; however, as the conflict has dragged on, the consequences for economic growth have increasingly been reflected in forecasts.

Bond markets have faced a challenging reversal in 2026. Expectations of inflation returning to 2% targets have required meaningful upward revision in light of sharply rising oil prices, and central banks have responded with a notably hawkish tone – moving swiftly to convince markets of their willingness to raise interest rates decisively. This has prompted a broad repricing across fixed income. Whilst the most pronounced volatility and yield rises have been concentrated at the shorter end of the yield curve, it is longer-dated bonds that have delivered the weakest total returns.

Equity markets have been volatile throughout the quarter, responding to an unpredictable flow of news regarding the trajectory and potential escalation of the conflict. Whilst most markets have felt its effects, first-quarter returns have also been shaped by how individual markets were positioned heading into the crisis.

In the US, a softer start to the year somewhat obscures what has been a degree of relative resilience since the conflict began. Japanese equities delivered strong gains after a decisive election result provided a clear mandate for the continuation of economic reform. Within emerging markets,

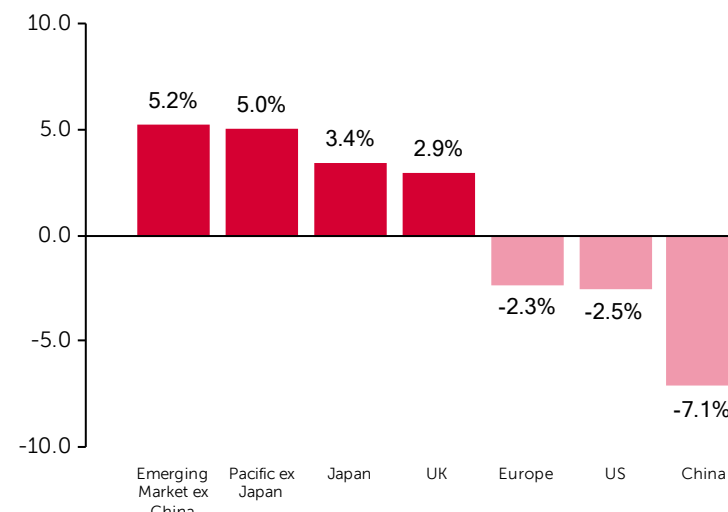
South Korea has been a standout performer, benefiting from growing appreciation of its role within the AI supply chain. Closer to home, UK equities have outperformed, supported by the market’s heavyweight exposure to the energy sector, with the major oil companies buoyed by rising crude prices.

As with any event that dominates market attention, the range of potential outcomes is wide and largely contingent on political decisions that are, by their nature, difficult to forecast. Scenarios span from a relatively swift de-escalation – which would provide immediate relief to risk assets and take pressure off energy prices – through to a prolonged conflict that continues to weigh on growth expectations and keeps central banks in a difficult position. The latter would present the more challenging environment to navigate: one in which policymakers face the unenviable task of responding to inflation driven by factors largely outside their influence, whilst simultaneously managing the risk of tipping economies into recession.

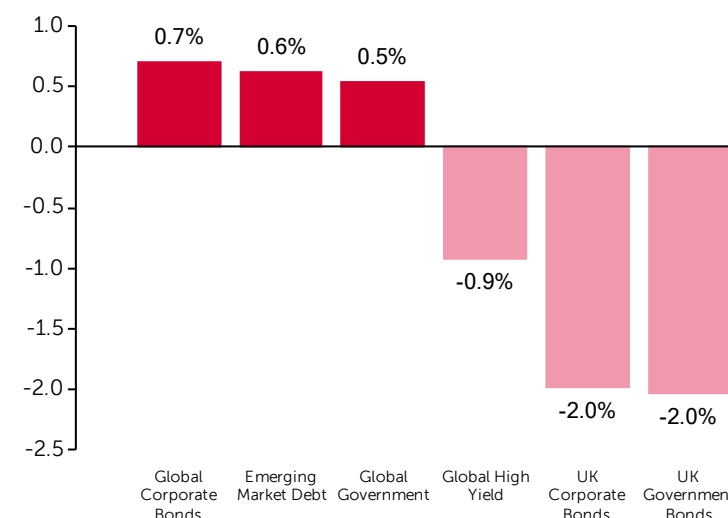
In the near term, oil prices are likely to remain the key variable for both inflation dynamics and market sentiment. Beyond energy, however, the conflict has reinforced a broader reassessment of supply chain vulnerabilities, defence spending trajectories, and energy security – themes that are likely to shape investment narratives well beyond the immediate volatility.

Ultimately, against a backdrop of elevated geopolitical and event risk, ensuring that portfolios are resilient across a range of scenarios – and positioned to deliver an appropriate journey for clients – feels more important than ever.

Equity performance - last quarter



Fixed income performance - last quarter



Portfolio commentary

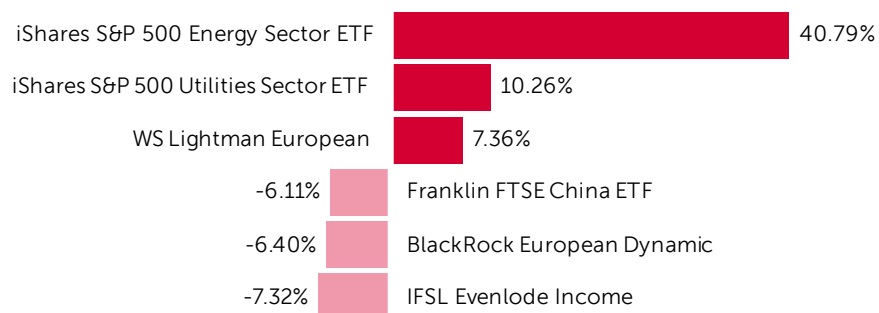
Equity markets faced a turbulent first quarter in 2026, as the outbreak of conflict in Iran injected volatility across global indices. Despite the challenging backdrop, the portfolio held up relatively well, with the active fund selection demonstrating its value in a more discriminating market environment. Within fixed income, the broader risk-off sentiment caused credit spreads to widen from historically tight levels, weighing on the portfolio's credit allocation.

Within UK equities, the picture was mixed. IFSL Evenlode Income endured a difficult quarter as holdings in RELX, Experian, and Sage fell sharply amid a broader sell-off in software stocks, driven by growing fears over AI disruption to their business models. This was well balanced by a strong contribution from the JPMorgan UK Equity Plus Fund, which more than offset the Evenlode drag and demonstrated the benefit of holding different styles within the same regional allocation.

In the US, Artemis US Select detracted from performance as high-multiple technology holdings including NVIDIA, Alphabet, and Meta weighed on returns amid the broader risk-off sentiment. This was meaningfully offset, however, by the decision made at the start of the year to broaden the US equity allocation through the addition of the iShares S&P 500 Energy ETF. Energy stocks benefited considerably from rising crude prices following the supply shock caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, illustrating the value of diversifying beyond market cap-weighted US exposure.

Overall, AJ Bell Active MPS 4 returned 0.54% over the quarter.

Q1 2026 best/worst performers



Performance

Cumulative (%)	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since inception
Active MPS 4	0.54	5.25	18.19	36.33	40.11	70.62
IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares	-1.72	1.55	11.05	26.27	26.92	51.97

The above table displays the total return of the fund on a cumulative basis. This is taken from the most recent month end.



! Past performance is not indicative of future performance. The value of investments may go down as well as up and the income generated by investments is not guaranteed and may fluctuate. You may receive back less than the amount that you invested.

Active MPS 4

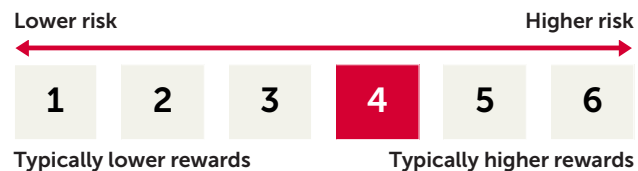
As at 31 March 2026

Portfolio snapshot

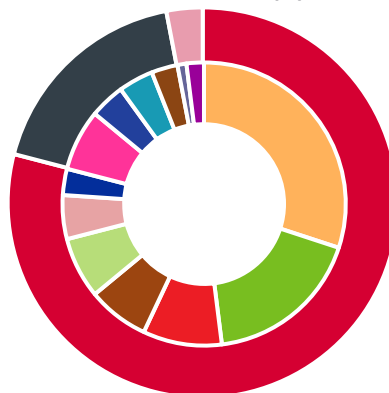
Number of holdings	23
Inception date	19 Feb 2018
Underlying OCF	0.51%
Annual Investment Management Charge	0.15%
Indicative Total OCF	0.66%

Top 10 holdings

Holding	Weight (%)
Artemis US Select	8.50
Dodge & Cox Worldwide US Stock	8.50
JPM UK Equity Plus	8.50
Invesco High Yield	7.00
Artemis SmartGARP Global Emerging Markets Ex China Equity	6.00
Man Income	6.00
SPDR S&P 500 ETF	6.00
Franklin FTSE China ETF	5.00
BlackRock European Dynamic	4.00
M&G Emerging Markets Bond	4.00



Asset allocation (%)



Equity	79.00
North America equity	30.00
UK equity	18.00
Emerging markets ex-China equity	9.00
Europe ex-UK equity	7.00
Japan equity	7.00
China equity	5.00
Asia Pacific ex-Japan equity	3.00
Fixed Income	18.00
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	7.00
Emerging market debt	4.00
UK corporate bonds	4.00
Global government bonds (GBP hedged)	3.00
Cash	3.00
Cash	1.00
Cash equivalent	2.00

Fixed income breakdown (%)



GBP Bonds	77.78
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	38.89
UK corporate bonds	22.22
Global government bonds (GBP hedged)	16.67
International Bonds	22.22
Emerging market debt	22.22

Equity breakdown (%)



Sector	Weight (%)
Financial Services	17.71
Technology	16.38
Industrials	13.09
Healthcare	11.55
Consumer Cyclical	8.64
Energy	7.52
Communication Services	6.32
Basic Materials	5.95
Consumer Defensive	5.58
Utilities	5.05
Real Estate	2.21

Indicative Total Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF) is inclusive of the AJ Bell Investments Annual Management Charge (fee of 0.15%) and the ongoing charges of underlying investments. MPS transaction costs reflect the aggregated transaction costs reported by underlying products. In some instances products may deploy pricing mechanisms which can result in negative costs. Additional costs will be incurred while using the MPS. These include (where applicable) platform costs and dealing costs. Any charges payable to your financial adviser will apply in addition. Therefore, the actual performance of your portfolio might differ from the stated past performance. There is no set minimum investment into the MPS, however, the structure of the underlying investments means that the portfolios work more efficiently for investments above a certain size. For this MPS, this is around £20,000.

Due to its multi-asset nature, no financial instrument or index represents a fair benchmark for the portfolio. However, to give context and enable an objective assessment of the portfolio's performance, the IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares is included for reference. The portfolio does not aim to track the IA sector as a benchmark. Performance is calculated on a net of fees basis.

Performance reflects the headline model and includes the underlying costs of the holdings and the annual investment management charge. It does not include any transaction costs that would have been incurred through rebalancing or changing any underlying holdings. This model was launched on 19 February 2018. Cash performance is measured using the AJ Bell Investcentre platform interest rates.

Allocation and performance information contained in this document is representative of the standard Active MPS 4 model held on AJ Bell Investcentre. The implementation of this model may vary when held via other platforms, for example, where access to certain share classes is restricted. This may lead to differences in allocation, performance and cost.

Based on target weights at portfolio rebalance. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Past performance is not indicative of future performance. The value of investments may go down as well as up and the income generated by investments is not guaranteed and may fluctuate. You may receive back less than the amount that you invested.

This information is for indicative purposes only and is not intended, and should not be construed, as investment advice. The information contained in this document has been taken from the sources stated and is believed to be reliable and accurate, but without further investigation cannot be warranted or guaranteed to be wholly correct. The views and opinions expressed in this document are not forecasts or recommendations in relation to investment decisions. The information and data presented in this document were believed to be correct at the time of writing and we are not liable for any subsequent changes.

©2026 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/ or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.