

Managed Portfolio Service

# Active MPS 1

As at 31 December 2025

**Market commentary:**

The fourth quarter concluded a broadly positive year for markets, particularly for riskier asset classes such as equities. In contrast to the summer, the prevailing AI narrative shifted somewhat; however, just as sentiment appeared to wane, corporate earnings provided renewed optimism.

Markets, for the most part, endured the second-longest US Government shutdown on record. The resulting patchy economic data from the US made it somewhat difficult to ascertain underlying trends. Nevertheless, the Federal Reserve saw enough in the employment data to lower rates decisively, delivering two further cuts before year end.

After inflation in the UK hovered at nearly double the 2% target during the summer months, it subsided to 3.2% by November. This enabled the Bank of England to implement a final rate cut in December, which supported gilts across the curve, as did the smooth passage of the UK Budget. A similar trend in inflation was observed in the US, following a gap in coverage due to the Government shutdown. US inflation eased to 2.7% in November, allowing the Fed to focus on the employment aspect of its mandate.

Corporate bonds enjoyed another positive quarter, ending 2025 on a strong note. Credit spread compression and higher starting yields helped them outperform government bonds this year. Consequently, those segments of the bond market carrying greater risk, such as high yield bonds, proved to be more attractive allocations in 2025.

Despite headlines highlighting US markets reaching all-time highs, returns in sterling terms were comparatively muted over 2025 due to the weakness of the US dollar. In the fourth quarter, US market returns were supported by Alphabet's rise to challenge Nvidia in AI chip design, while the latter remained steady. The healthcare sector performed well after leading companies reached drug pricing agreements with the US Government. UK and European equities were also buoyed by financials, with healthcare stocks performing strongly. The UK market additionally benefited from the

materials sector, which rallied on the back of rising precious and industrial metal prices.

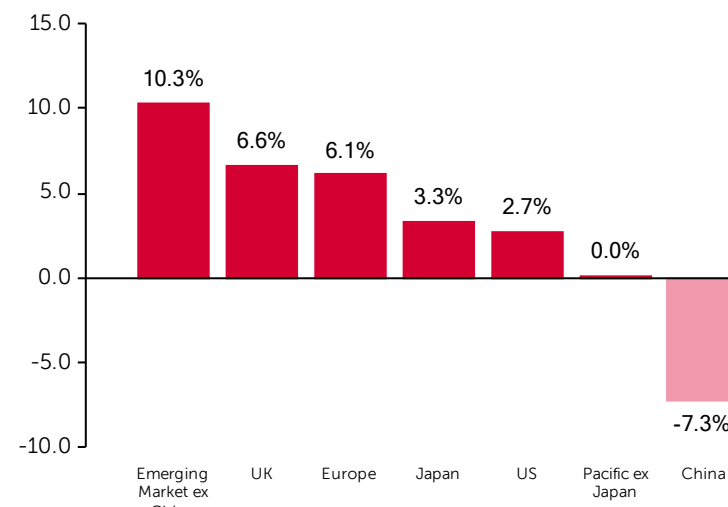
Emerging markets ex China continued their rally in the final quarter of 2025 as the AI theme and its supply chain attracted attention. Technology-heavy markets such as South Korea and Taiwan benefited, while Chinese equity markets and their AI leaders declined, reflecting their underlying reliance on consumer spending amid weaker economic data.

Looking ahead, AI is likely to remain a key theme, particularly for markets heavily exposed to the technological development and supply chains. As 2025 demonstrated, other themes across markets may attract less attention but remain significant.

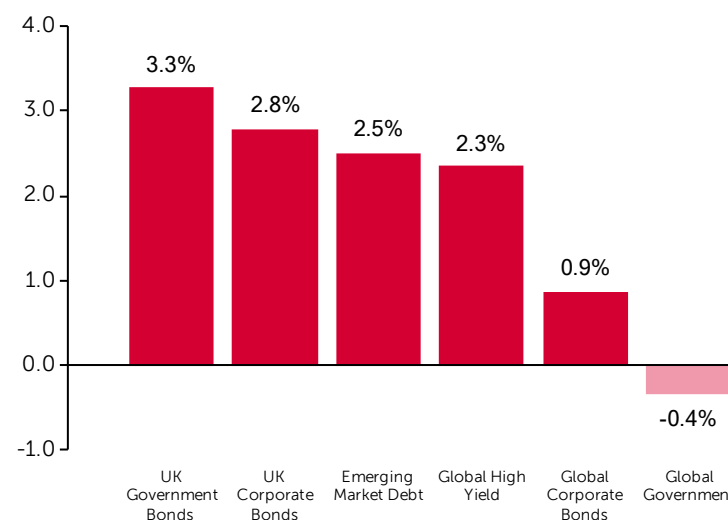
The rise in industrial metal prices towards the end of 2025 prompts questions about our position in the global economic cycle and the fragility of supply chains. This, in turn, brings inflationary dynamics back into focus. Despite some short-term relief, we believe there are considerable risks to maintaining inflation in line with central bank targets over the long term.

As ever there is a wide range of possibilities ahead of us, and therefore it is useful to return to one of our core investment principles: diversification. We see a continued need for a strong emphasis on diversification within bond and equity allocations in 2026.

Equity performance - last quarter



Fixed income performance - last quarter



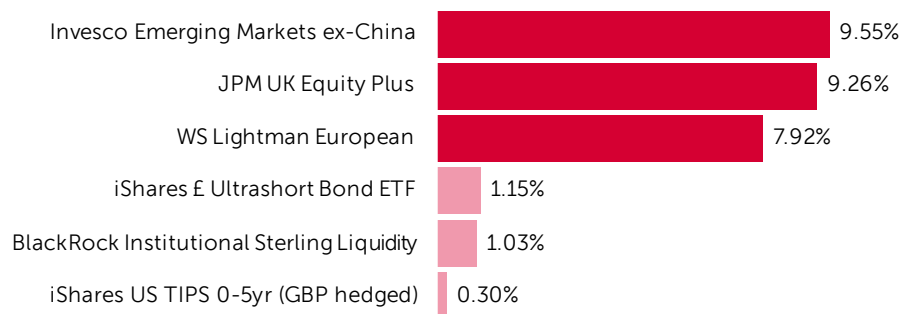
**Portfolio commentary**

Against a more supportive policy backdrop, the final quarter of 2025 proved favourable for bond markets. The Bank of England’s December rate cut, aided by continued easing in UK inflation, supported gilts across the curve and the portfolio’s UK government bond allocation. UK corporate bonds also performed well, benefiting from compressed credit spreads and the attraction of higher starting yields. Further down the credit spectrum, the M&G Emerging Market Bond Fund delivered strong returns, supported by its blend of local currency and US dollar denominated exposure. Global high yield bonds delivered positive returns but failed to sustain the momentum seen earlier in the year, with spreads remaining at historically tight levels.

Within equities, risk assets advanced into year-end. The JPM UK Equity Plus Fund benefited from strength in Financials and Materials, reflecting its overweight exposure to these sectors. European equities also had a strong quarter, with the WS Lightman European allocation capitalising on the performance of its largest holding, Roche.

Overall, Active MPS 1 gained 2.95% over the quarter and delivered a return of 8.4% for the full year 2025.

**Q4 2025 best/worst performers**



**Performance**

Cumulative (%)	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since inception
Active MPS 1	2.95	5.98	8.40	19.88	16.62	31.30
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	2.17	5.04	8.02	19.57	10.12	22.60

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 1

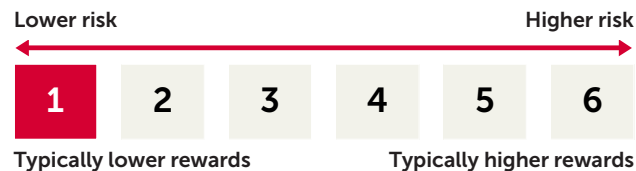
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## Portfolio snapshot

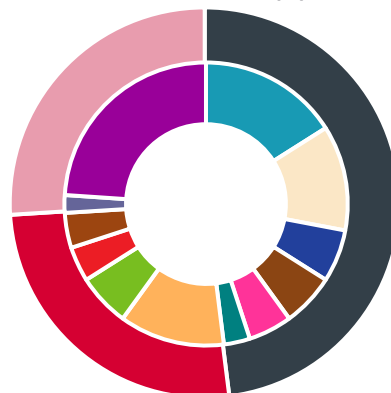
Number of holdings	17
Inception date	19 Feb 2018
Underlying OCF	0.30%
Annual Investment Management Charge	0.15%
Indicative Total OCF	0.45%

## Top 10 holdings

Holding	Weight (%)
BlackRock Institutional Sterling Liquidity	14.00
Artemis Corporate Bond	10.00
iShares E Ultrashort Bond ETF	10.00
Amundi UK Government Bond 0-5Y ETF	6.00
iShares Core UK Gilts ETF	6.00
iShares US TIPS 0-5yr (GBP hedged)	6.00
JPM UK Equity Plus	6.00
M&G Emerging Markets Bond	6.00
TwentyFour Corporate Bond	6.00
Invesco High Yield	5.00



### Asset allocation (%)



<b>Fixed Income</b>	<b>48.00</b>
UK corporate bonds	16.00
UK government bonds	12.00
Emerging market debt	6.00
International government bonds (GBP hedged)	6.00
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	5.00
International government bonds	3.00
<b>Equity</b>	<b>26.00</b>
North America equity	12.00
UK equity	6.00
Emerging markets ex-China equity	4.00
Europe ex-UK equity	4.00
<b>Cash</b>	<b>26.00</b>
Cash	2.00
Cash equivalent	24.00

### Fixed income breakdown (%)



<b>GBP Bonds</b>	<b>81.25</b>
UK corporate bonds	33.33
UK government bonds	25.00
International government bonds (GBP hedged)	12.50
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	10.42
<b>International Bonds</b>	<b>18.75</b>
Emerging market debt	12.50
International government bonds	6.25

### Equity breakdown (%)



Sector	
Financial Services	19.64
Technology	18.98
Industrials	13.04
Healthcare	12.49
Consumer Cyclical	8.13
Consumer Defensive	7.71
Communication Services	7.08
Basic Materials	4.79
Energy	4.70
Utilities	2.27
Real Estate	1.18

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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 0-35% 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 1 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.



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