CG AJ Bell Global Growth

As at 31 December 2025

AJ Bell Funds Quarterly Reports

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.

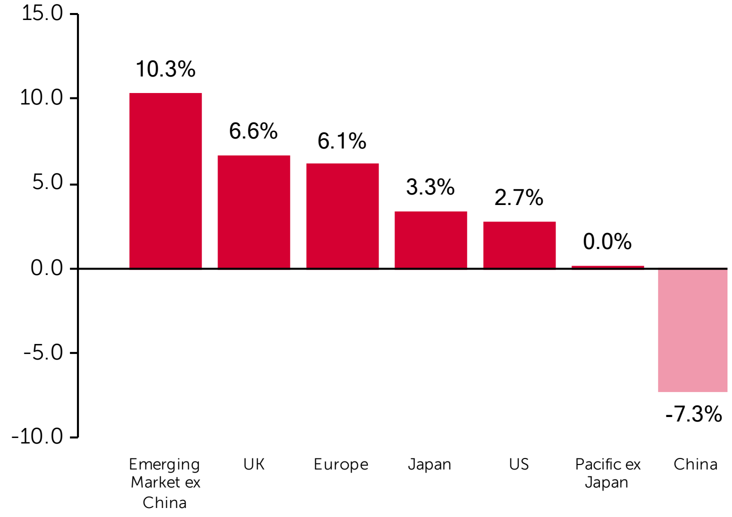
Emerging markets ex China continued their rally in the final quarter of 2025 as the AI theme and its supply chain attracted attention. Technology-heavy markets such as South Korea and Taiwan benefited, while Chinese equity markets and their AI leaders declined, reflecting their underlying reliance on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

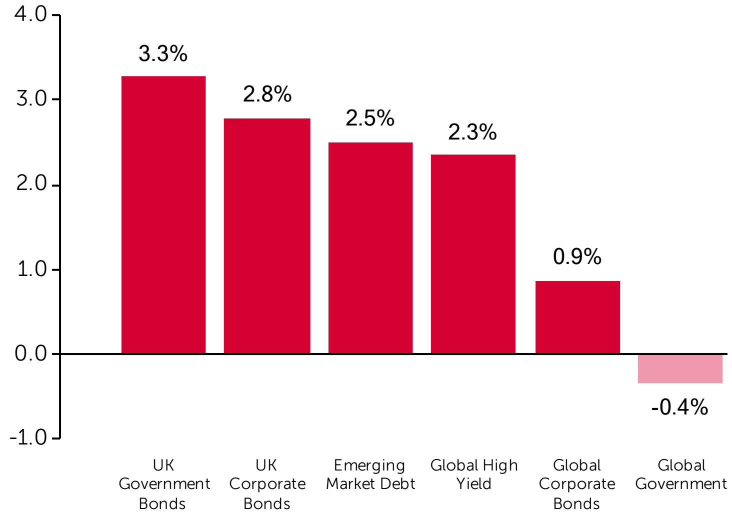
The rise in industrial metal prices towards the end of 2025 prompts questions about our position in the global economic cycle and the fragility of supply chains. This, in turn, brings inflationary dynamics back into focus. Despite some short-term relief, we believe there are considerable risks to maintaining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



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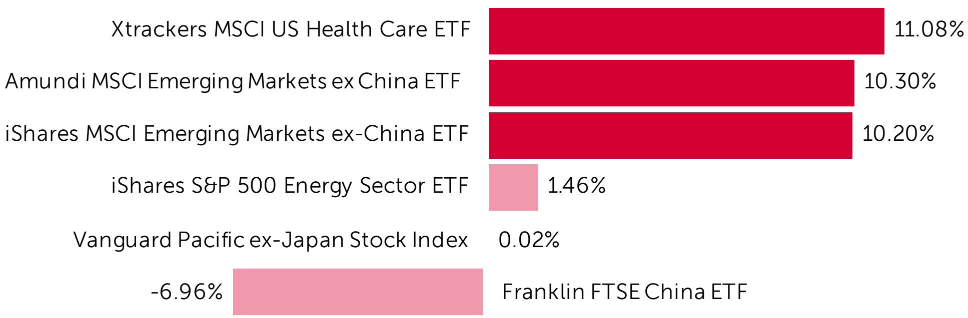
Portfolio commentary

The end of the year was relatively smooth sailing, with positive returns across most regions. Only China suffered significant losses in the fourth quarter, perhaps experiencing a bit of reverb after a successful year. However, emerging markets ex-China more than compensated for any of those losses, pushed by tech in South Korea and Taiwan. India also aided in returns with a bounce back after a quiet year.

Another tech epicentre, Japan, ran into some political drama in November, but share prices have since recovered. Moving west, Europe and the UK were both able to finish a year of big gains with a positive fourth quarter, and although the US has been the centre of bubble speculation, a strong set of corporate earnings meant a positive quarter there, too.

We expect AI to continue as the dominant theme in 2026. A smaller-than-average exposure to the US dampens some of the dangers of a bubble, but we do still want to find ways to benefit from the sector. Instead of the mainstream choices, we plan to look globally for sectors where AI can have more of a nuanced, but still significant impact. Overall, the fund returned 5.07% in the fourth quarter and a total return of 58.59% over the past five years.

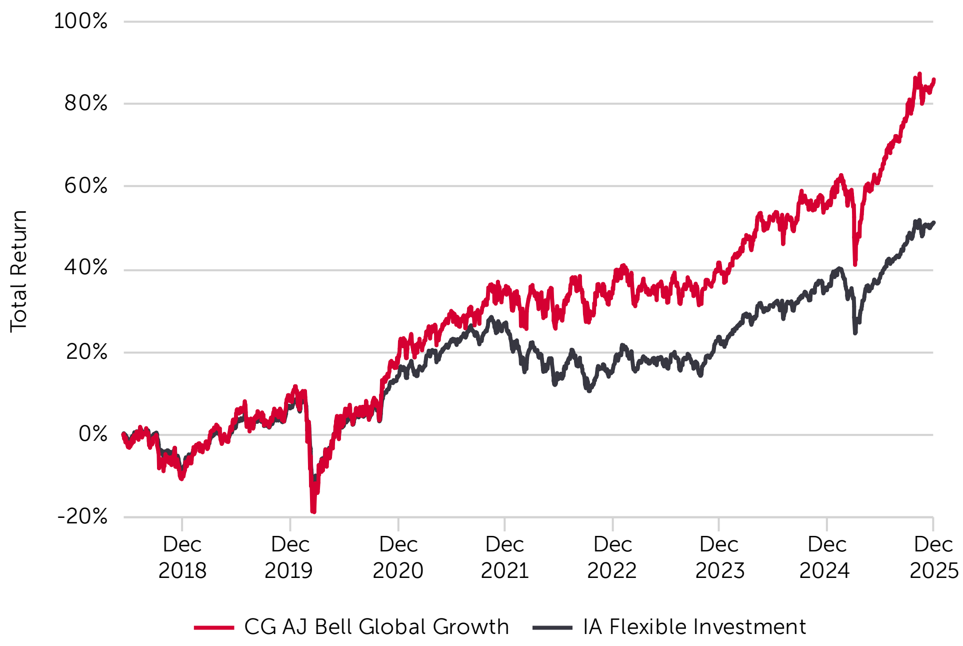
Q4 2025 best/worst performers



Performance

Cumulative (%)	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since inception
CG AJ Bell Global Growth	5.07	14.12	20.12	38.69	58.59	86.00
IA Flexible Investment	3.25	9.70	12.11	31.32	32.92	51.34

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.

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Portfolio snapshot

Number of holdings		16
Inception date		11 Jun 2018
Fund size		£388.25m
ISIN	(I Acc)	GB00BD833W40

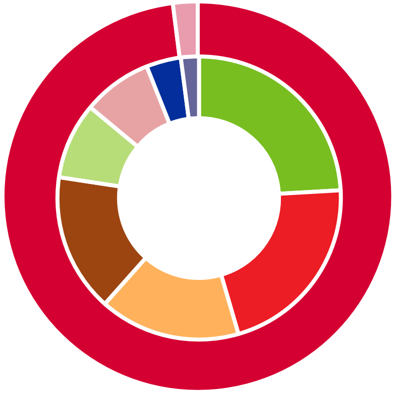
Top 10 holdings

Holding	Weight (%)
Vanguard FTSE UK All-Share Index	16.35
SPDR S&P 500 ETF	13.57
Amundi MSCI Emerging Markets ex China ETF	12.53
Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex UK Equity Index Plus	10.60
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ex-China ETF	8.87
Amundi Prime Japan ETF	8.73
Amundi UK Equity All Cap ETF	5.70
Xtrackers S&P Europe ex-UK ETF	5.17
Franklin FTSE China ETF	4.47
Vanguard Pacific ex-Japan Stock Index	3.97

Risk profile

For investors who favour a higher allocation to equities and understand the risk reward relationship that entails over the short, medium, and long term. The fund predominantly invests in funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs), using a defined strategic asset allocation process to deliver returns while meeting the targeted level of risk.

Asset allocation (%)



Equity	**97.95**
UK equity	24.13
Emerging markets ex-China equity	21.40
North America equity	16.03
Europe ex-UK equity	15.77
Japan equity	8.73
China equity	7.91
Asia Pacific ex-Japan equity	3.97
Cash	**2.05**
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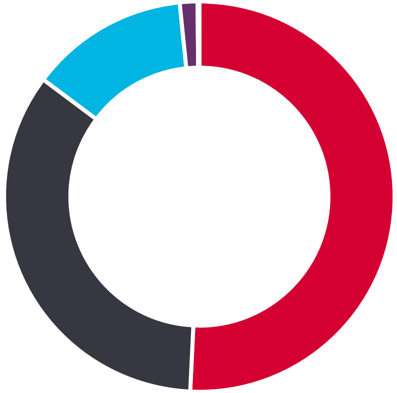
Equity breakdown (%)



Market Cap Group	
Giant	50.75
Large	34.49
Mid	13.14
Small	1.46
Micro	0.16

Equity breakdown (%)

Sector	
Financial Services	21.53
Technology	17.07
Industrials	13.09
Consumer Cyclical	9.74
Healthcare	9.21
Consumer Defensive	7.16
Communication Services	6.54
Basic Materials	5.59
Energy	4.86
Utilities	3.21
Real Estate	2.01

The Ongoing charges figure (OCF) includes the underlying OCF, the annual management fee, and the costs for running and administering the fund structure. The annual management fee is variable, as it consists of the fixed OCF, minus all other costs.

Transaction costs represent the net costs incurred by the fund in buying and selling underlying investments. These are the gross costs offset with any pricing mechanisms used by the fund to protect investors from the cost of transactions (such as swing pricing). In some instances this may result in a negative number.

Due to its multi-asset nature, no financial instrument or index represents a fair benchmark for the Fund. The Fund does not aim to track the IA sector as a benchmark. Performance is calculated on a net of fees basis.

Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Currency Risk: The Fund invests in overseas markets and the value of its investments and may rise or fall as a result of changes in exchange rates.

Emerging Markets Risk: The Fund invests in less economically developed markets (i.e. emerging markets) which can involve greater risks and fluctuations in valuations compared to developed market places.

Index Trading Risk: The performance of any passively managed funds may not exactly track that of their indices. This is referred to as 'Tracking error'.

Interest Rate Risk: Fluctuations in interest rates may affect the value of the Fund and your investment.

Liquidity Risk: The Fund invests within underlying funds and there is a risk that these suspend or defer the payment of redemption proceeds, which may impact the Fund's ability to meet redemption requests.

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The market capitalisation classifications in this report are based on a tiered methodology developed by Morningstar. Market capitalisation is the total value of a company's shares on the stock market. Under this method, giant-cap shares make up the top 40% of total market value; large-cap shares represent the next 30%; mid-cap the following 20%; small-cap the next 7%; and micro-cap the remaining 3%. These classifications are for analytical purposes only and may differ from other industry definitions.

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