AJ Bell Funds Quarterly Reports

As at 30 June 2026

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AJ Bell Investments

Market commentary:

The second quarter began against a backdrop of continued geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East, with markets still assessing the implications of the conflict between Iran and the US. As the period progressed, however, those concerns eased as the two nations agreed to continue peace talks, reducing fears of prolonged escalation.

The easing in geopolitical tensions was most clearly reflected in oil markets. Crude prices fell back over the quarter, taking some pressure off inflation expectations and providing a more supportive backdrop for risk assets. This shift also moved investor attention away from energy and inflation towards the dominant market theme of artificial intelligence.

Bond markets remained volatile for much of the quarter, with government bond yields staying elevated as investors continued to weigh the path of inflation, central bank policy and fiscal risk. Central banks were an important driver of that volatility. In Europe, policymakers responded to the inflationary impulse from higher energy prices by raising rates, while in the UK the expected path for interest rates moderated considerably as oil prices fell back and growth concerns became more prominent.

The US saw a notable shift in Federal Reserve leadership, with Jay Powell giving way to Kevin Warsh. Markets interpreted the change as the start of a potentially different communication regime, with Warsh placing less emphasis on forward guidance. While the Fed left rates unchanged, the leadership transition contributed to uncertainty in rates markets. Towards the end of the period, however, bond markets rallied as yields moved lower into quarter end, providing some relief after a volatile start to the year.

Equity markets were increasingly led by the artificial intelligence theme as the quarter progressed. Emerging markets ex China delivered particularly strong returns, with South Korea a standout performer as investors continued to reward companies exposed to the AI memory and semiconductor supply chain.

In the US, the AI theme also remained highly influential, with renewed investor enthusiasm reinforced by market attention around major technology-related listings and the continued build-out of AI infrastructure. Returns were more muted in areas less directly exposed to this theme. China remained weaker as the domestic economy continued to face pressure, while the UK also lagged, with the earlier support from energy exposure fading as oil prices declined.

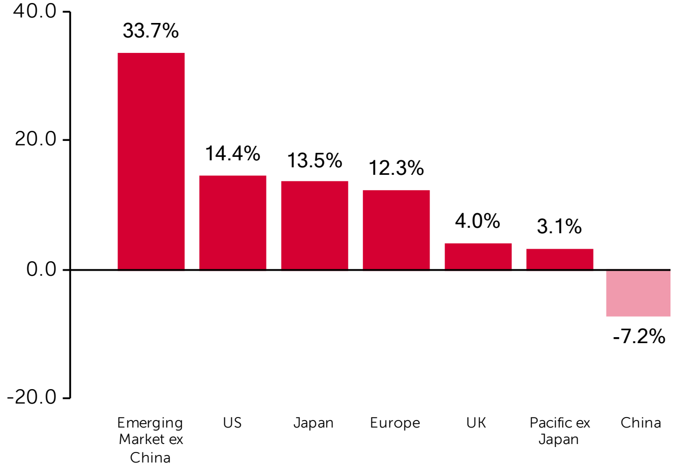
Looking ahead, the AI theme has returned to the centre of investor attention as geopolitical risk has faded somewhat into the background. Political risk appears somewhat heightened in the UK following turnover in the prime minister, but further afield investors are more focused on how best to gain exposure to the dominant AI trend and how much of that opportunity is already reflected in valuations.

For portfolios, returns were generally stronger than in the first quarter, helped by a more settled market backdrop as volatility subsided somewhat. While conditions remained far from straightforward, the easing in geopolitical concerns, lower oil prices and improved sentiment towards risk assets provided a more supportive environment for diversified portfolios.

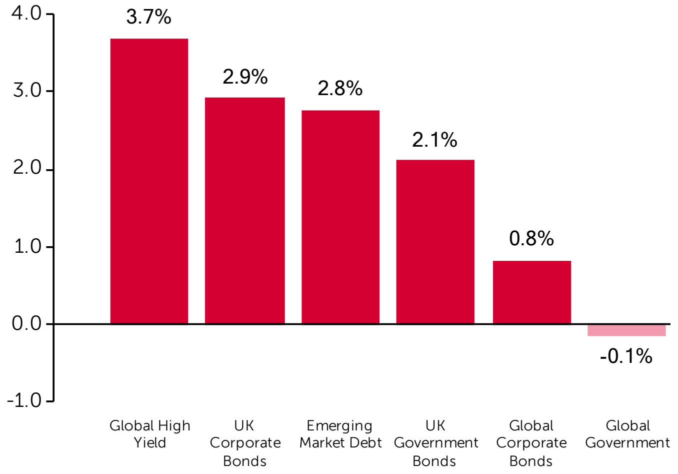
The key challenge now is balancing exposure to the powerful AI theme with appropriate risk control. Diversification remains essential, but the quarter has reinforced that it needs to be considered not just at a geographic level, but also across sectors and sources of return.

As we move into the second half of 2026, maintaining a balanced approach across asset classes, regions and sectors appears increasingly important. The opportunity set remains attractive, but with market leadership narrow and investor enthusiasm concentrated in a small number of themes, portfolio resilience and disciplined diversification are likely to remain central to delivering good client outcomes..

Equity performance - last quarter



Fixed income performance - last quarter



CG AJ Bell Responsible Screened Growth

As at 30 June 2026

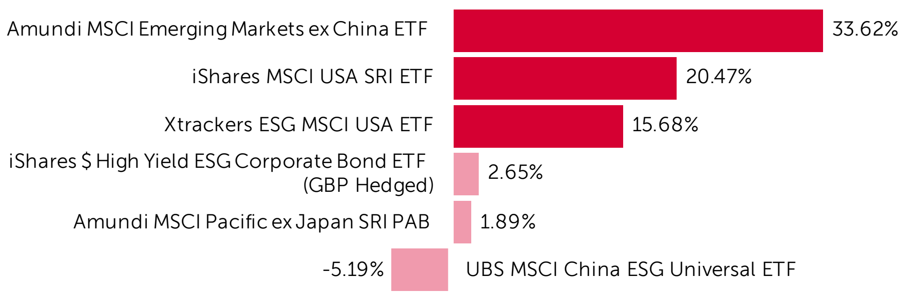
AJ Bell Investments

Portfolio commentary

The AJ Bell Responsible Screened Growth fund enjoyed a period strong growth after a rocky start to the year, returning 14.1% throughout the quarter. The US was a big driver of growth, contributing 14.4% to the fund over the past three months. Energy was a main factor in returns in the first quarter, which hurt the responsibly screened fund as the screening ethos does not include major oil companies. But the pull back in oil price this quarter and advancement of tech stocks allowed the fund to enjoy a much better second quarter.

Emerging markets were another main driver for the fund because of its role in the AI supply chain through companies such as Samsung and TSMC. To balance out the tech exposure, the fund also holds allocations in Europe in the UK that focus on more traditional industries such as healthcare. The Europe portion of the fund particularly performed well in the quarter, with a 15% return.

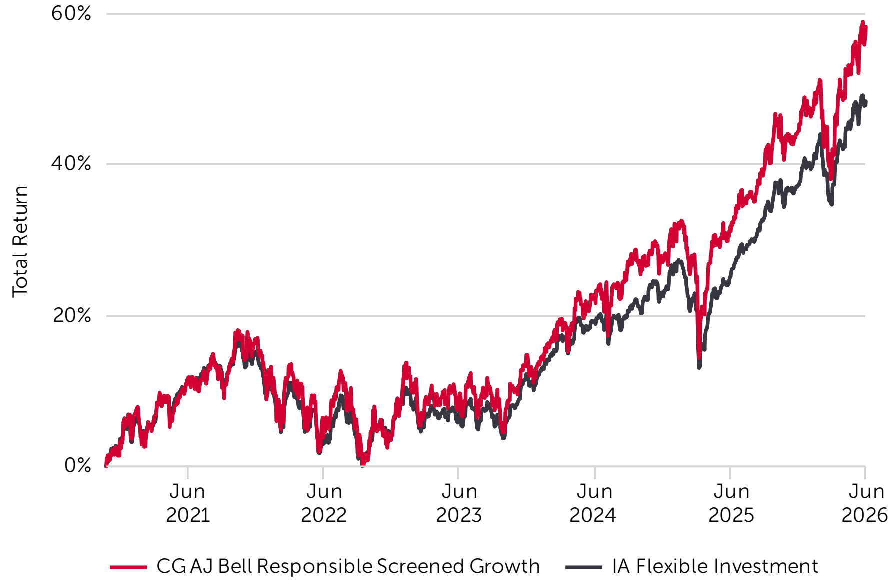
Q2 2026 best/worst performers



Performance

Cumulative (%)	3 months	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years	Since inception
CG AJ Bell Responsible Screened Growth	14.05	9.51	20.10	45.31	42.75	58.33
IA Flexible Investment	9.71	8.08	18.52	38.89	33.61	48.43

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



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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.

CG AJ Bell Responsible Screened Growth

As at 30 June 2026

AJBell Investments

Portfolio snapshot

Number of holdings		13
Fund launch date		23 Nov 2020
Fund size		£224.77m
ISIN	(I Acc)	GB00BN0S2V92

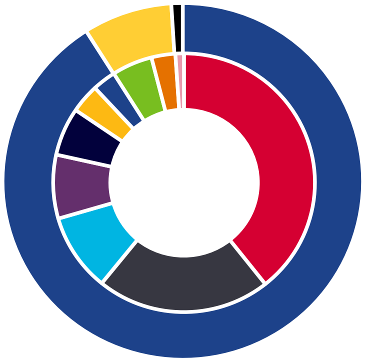
Top 10 holdings

Holding	Weight (%)
Xtrackers ESG MSCI USA ETF	25.25
iShares MSCI USA SRI ETF	14.08
UBS MSCI UK IMI Socially Responsible ETF	11.64
Amundi MSCI UK IMI SRI PAB ETF	9.85
Amundi MSCI Europe SRI PAB ETF	9.70
Amundi MSCI Emerging Markets ex China ETF	7.96
iShares MSCI Japan SRI ETF	5.98
UBS MSCI China ESG Universal ETF	3.65
Invesco Global High Yield Corporate Bond ESG Climate Transition UCITS ETF	3.39
L&G ESG Emerging Markets Government Bond	2.94

Risk profile

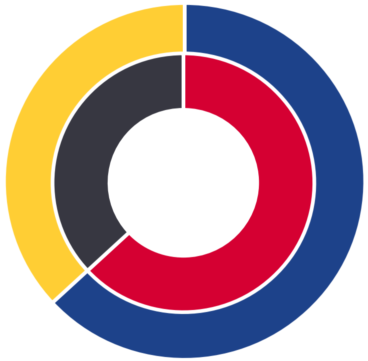
For investors who favour a higher allocation to equities and understand the risk reward relationship that entails over the short, medium, and long term. The fund predominantly invests in funds, and exchange traded funds (ETFs), using a defined strategic asset allocation process to deliver returns while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

Asset allocation (%)



Equity	**90.98**
North America equity	39.33
UK equity	21.48
Europe ex-UK equity	9.70
Emerging markets ex-China equity	7.96
Japan equity	5.98
China equity	3.65
Asia Pacific ex-Japan equity	2.87
Fixed Income	**7.98**
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	5.03
Emerging market debt	2.94
Cash	**1.04**
Cash	1.04

Fixed income breakdown (%)



GBP Bonds	**63.08**
Global high yield bonds (GBP hedged)	63.08
International Bonds	**36.92**
Emerging market debt	36.92

Equity breakdown (%)

Sector	
Technology	25.49
Financial Services	19.82
Industrials	13.04
Healthcare	10.15
Consumer Cyclical	9.08
Communication Services	8.46
Consumer Defensive	5.19
Basic Materials	3.39
Real Estate	3.26
Utilities	1.59
Other	0.51

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.

The assigned risk profiles do not indicate a promise, forecast or illustration of future volatility or returns nor represent investment advice or a recommendation to buy or sell units/shares in a fund or portfolio.

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

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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.

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.