



QUARTER 3- 2026 UPDATE
A FOCUS ON LONG-TERM THINKING



**LAMPIERS FINANCIAL PLANNING: EMPOWERING YOUR
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Lampiers Financial Planning Update - October 2026

After a beautiful summer, we are now moving into autumn and the build-up to the end of the year. The summer also brought a change in Prime Minister; the UK has now had seven since 2016.

There will inevitably be plenty of rumours about what may or may not change. Some ideas may be considered in future policy or election manifestos, but the detail and timing remain uncertain.

Our role is not to speculate or second guess. It is to focus on your plan. A good financial plan is flexible enough to adapt to changes in your personal circumstances, tax rules and legislation, should they arise.

In this update, we share some Lampiers news, reflect on the markets, explain two retirement-planning changes already on the horizon, and set out how we will approach the months ahead.

In short

We will keep monitoring the areas that matter, explain confirmed changes clearly and review whether they affect you. For now, the best course is to keep decisions connected to your long-term plan, rather than to headlines.





Business progress

Lampiers continues to grow, and we have put plans in place for the next five years. Independence is part of our DNA and there are no plans to change that. As a team-focused practice, there will always be someone who can help.

The summer was a quieter period, with many of the team taking well-earned breaks. We are now back and focused on the coming months and on supporting clients through the changes that life can bring.

Supporting Bristol rugby

We are delighted to be sponsoring the match official shirts of the Bristol Rugby Referees' Society. Last season, its members officiated at more than 1,350 matches, supporting clubs, schools, women's and youth teams, and tournaments in the UK and overseas. We are proud to support the people behind the whistle and look forward to seeing the new shirts out on the pitch.





Beyond the noise

The Labour Party Conference gave some indication of the direction of travel, but that is different from confirmed policy. We will not change a financial plan based on speculation.

For example, we use a conservative 2.5% annual assumption for future State Pension increases when building plans. This is reviewed regularly. If the rules change, we will consider the detail and whether the assumptions need adjusting.

Similarly, where long-term care may be relevant, we continue to build this into plans where appropriate. That remains sensible planning while we await any clearer proposals.

Pensions and inheritance tax

The Government has set out plans for most unused pension funds and death benefits to be brought within the value of a person's estate for inheritance tax from 6 April 2027. The final operation of the rules and the impact on individual estates will depend on the legislation and personal circumstances at the time.

Pensions are still an important part of retirement planning. Their primary purpose is to support you, and where relevant a partner, through retirement. The proposed changes are a reminder to make sure beneficiary nominations are up to date and that your estate plan still reflects your wishes. It does not mean that the right answer will be the same for everyone.

We will discuss this as part of our normal planning conversations and will contact clients directly where a more immediate review may be helpful.

Pension access age 55 to 57

From 6 April 2028, the normal minimum pension age is due to rise from 55 to 57. This may affect people who had expected to access their pension at 55, particularly those who reach 55 on or after the change. There are exceptions, including some protected pension ages and ill-health circumstances.

The change does not mean everyone should take money from a pension earlier. Accessing a pension is a significant planning decision, with tax and long-term income implications.

We will identify clients who may be affected and contact them in good time.





A look at the markets (July - September)

Markets have continued to move forward, but not in a straight line. Global shares were supported by generally resilient economic data and a healthy corporate earnings backdrop. Technology remained an important influence, although returns across the sector were more mixed than earlier in the year.

There were also signs of market returns broadening. In August, developed and emerging market shares both rose, while smaller companies and a range of sectors also participated. This matters because it reinforces why portfolios are diversified across regions, company sizes and asset classes rather than relying on a small number of popular names.

Bond markets have been more sensitive. Higher long-term interest rates and energy prices have kept investors alert, and bond yields have moved around. Higher yields can create short-term price movements, but they also mean new bonds offer a more attractive level of income than was available for much of the previous decade.

The global economy has shown resilience, although inflation and interest rates remain important areas to watch. We continue to monitor the investments we use and the assumptions within your plan. If anything needs to change, we will explain why and what it means for you.

What this means for your plan

We do not try to predict the next market move. Your investments are there to support your plan, not to become the plan. A diversified portfolio cannot remove uncertainty, but it helps avoid making your long-term outcome depend on one market, one region or one idea.





A final thought

We will issue a separate update after the Budget, once the announcements and supporting detail are available. Until then, it is worth being careful with the noise that builds around a Budget.

Capital gains tax, inheritance tax, the State Pension triple lock and long-term care are all likely to make headlines. If and when anything changes, we will wait for the detail before suggesting any changes to a financial plan.

Responding to change

A financial plan cannot eliminate uncertainty, but it can provide a framework for responding to it. If rules change, tax allowances alter or policy shifts, our role is to help you understand what it means for your circumstances and whether any action is needed.

For now, the most important message is simple: stay focused on the plan. If you would like to talk about anything in this update before your next review, please do get in touch.

A small ask

If you feel comfortable, leaving a [Google review](#) can make a meaningful difference. For many people at the beginning of their journey, it provides reassurance and confidence when choosing a financial planner.

Equally, if you have friends, family or colleagues who may be looking for help with their financial journey, we would be very happy to have an initial discussion.



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Risk Warning: This is for information only and does not constitute advice. The value of investments can fluctuate, and you may not recover the amount you initially invested. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The information contained within this newsletter is based on our understanding of legislation, whether proposed or in force, and market practice at the time of writing. Levels, bases and reliefs from taxation may be subject to change. A pension is a long-term investment that is not normally accessible until age 55 (57 from April 2028, unless the plan has a protected pension age). The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go down as well as up, which can affect the level of pension benefits available.

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