

# Bristol West Constituency Labour Party

## MEMBERS PACK



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# Bristol West Constituency Labour Party

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## **Welcome from Margaret Hickman, Chair of Bristol West CLP**

Bristol West is the Constituency Labour Party (CLP), meaning that it covers the area represented by an MP. Currently the MP for the constituency is Labour's Thangam Debbonaire, who was elected in 2015. From 1997 until 2005, Valerie Davey represented us in Parliament.

Bristol West covers the heart of Bristol, including the city centre and the major historical sites and areas, from the waterfront and 'old city' to St Pauls, Montpelier, Park Street and the University, right up to the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Avon Gorge. We value Bristol's diversity and history, but we also recognise that Bristol West is a relatively wealthy and privileged area, albeit one with significant pockets of poverty, particularly the ward of Lawrence Hill which is the most deprived in the South West.

Our members are drawn from across a whole range of occupations, from university lecturers and students to midwives and postal workers, retired people and teachers. We welcome everyone who is committed to Labour values and to making Bristol a fairer, more equal city.



## **Thangam Debbonaire, Member of Parliament for Bristol West**

Bristol is a great place to live and it could be even better. I hope you will help me to make the changes we need. Though I started out as a professional cellist I have worked locally, nationally and internationally for 25 years to end domestic violence. I moved to Bristol to be Women's Aid's first ever National Children's Officer, setting up support projects in refuges across the UK for children.

In May 2015, we saw years of hard work and unbreakable determination of party members and supporters help to elect a much needed Labour MP in Bristol West. The contribution of the members has been extremely valuable.

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We've got loads to be proud of – from the NHS to Sure Start, from the Equal Pay Act to the minimum wage, Labour has and always will be the party of the many not the few, the party of equality of opportunity and the party which stands up for our rights. We are all part of that movement. Across the country people are questioning the very nature of politics, asking who is standing up for them and how they can influence decisions – we believe that Labour is standing up for working people but we have to show and earn this.

There's lots of ways to do that but even if you don't have much time to spare, just being a member is a help.



## **Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol**

Bristol has a great story to tell. From Brunel to Concorde to Aardman to Banksy to our 450 parks and green spaces, we are a source of knowledge, innovation and quality of life. We are an ambitious city with two world-class universities and one of the highest graduate retention rates in the country. The West of England as a whole is the UK's most economically productive region. We are a City of Sanctuary and the European Green Capital, two expressions of a creative city culture that wants to do things differently.

The challenge is that while this is all true, it's a prosperity too many Bristolians don't share. Around 25 per cent of our children grow up in poverty. Catch the train in Clifton, get off 10 minutes later at Lawrence Hill, and you've lost nearly nine years of life expectancy and your chances of being employed or attending university have drastically reduced. This isn't to criticise people that do well. We celebrate that. But we recognise that growing inequality is a moral, political and economic liability and building an inclusive economy and society is good for all of us.

As a Mayor, I am focusing on unlocking the city so we can build homes, protecting people in the private rental sector, making population physical and mental health central to what we do, supporting schools and families to tackle education inequalities, prioritising our voluntary community sector, securing the legacy of Green Capital by ensuring we understand the inseparability of environmental and social justice and focusing on tackling fuel and nutritional poverty.

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

Getting involved is easy now that you've joined the party. In Bristol West Constituency Labour Party (CLP) there are lots of ways you could get active!

### **Campaigning and Volunteering**

We campaign throughout the year, usually on a weekly basis around the constituency, which involves both local and national issues as well as elections.

Bristol West members can help by:

- going canvassing door-to-door (contact your local ward organiser);
- taking part in phone canvassing;
- delivering campaign leaflets (contact Judy Wilson at [judy.w@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:judy.w@blueyonder.co.uk));
- attending Bristol West meetings and events;
- attending Women's Forum or Policy Forums;
- volunteering for a position on the Executive Committee;
- and joining demonstrations across the city.

What suits you best?

### **Skills**

We know that there are amazing and varied skills and expertise amongst our members, and many that would be of great help to our constituency Labour Party would be greatly appreciated. From speaking at our meetings to organising events to representing us at demonstrations, please contact us if you have ideas or queries regarding what you can contribute.

### **Standing for Office**

You can put yourself forward as a possible candidate, conference delegate or officer at local or city level. There are timetables for this process, available from the CLP Secretary (contact info on your membership card). Bristol City Council is elected on a four year cycle. MPs for the House of Commons are elected every five years in a General Election, unless the government falls. Annual, Regional, Youth, and Women's Conferences all have delegates from Bristol West and visitors are encouraged.

Bristol West's Annual General Meeting, where you can stand for the Executive Committee role, will take place in July this year. Branches also exist where you can become a Chair, Secretary, Membership Officer or a Treasurer. There are other roles available at ward level, such as ward organiser.

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## HOW DOES IT WORK?

The structure of the party at first seems like a maze, but it's simpler than it looks! As a democratic socialist party, we're committed to democracy within our organisations – which means that we have to stay open and make sure there is contact between all the various levels of the party. This is particularly important given the diverse membership of the Labour Party. New ideas are vital for the party to grow and be truly progressive in delivering for the country, so your experiences and views are essential. From local branch meetings to Conference, the party welcomes members to input into policy and manifestos.

**Branch/ward:** The most local form of the party. Branches/wards have the same boundaries as those for the election of councillors. Here members choose candidates for election.

**Constituency (CLP):** Made up of the wards that form the constituency of Bristol West's MP. Through the CLP, members choose delegates for annual Conference in the autumn and help select the parliamentary candidate and campaign. Officers of the CLP and representatives from branches/wards and affiliated organisations form the General Committee and Executive Committee each month. All members are welcome at such meetings, where both national and local politics are discussed.

**General Committee (GC):** This is where decisions about the constituency are made, local councillors tell us what is happening on Bristol City Council, and resolutions can be passed. Here we often discuss world events, environment and education. It is generally held on the first Thursday of every month.

**Executive Committee (EC):** The GC elects officers to the EC during the Annual General Meeting. The EC meets on a monthly basis. Anyone can stand for election as an officer.

**District: Local Campaign Forum (LCF):** Formally known as the Bristol Labour Party, the LCF is made up of Bristol's four CLPs - East, South, West and North West, and meets once a month to discuss local government and council issues.

**Local and regional policy forums:** You'll be invited to policy forums throughout the year. These are informal gatherings where party policy is discussed. Each forum submits to the policy commission, which contributes to the manifesto.

**Policy Commissions:** Cover all aspects of policy such as welfare, health, crime and justice. This includes representatives from the government, the NPF and the NEC who discuss submissions from all aforementioned bodies.

**National Policy Forum (NPF):** Conference delegates choose who serves on the NPF. This body makes sure policy is representative of the party.

**National Executive Committee (NEC):** Made of representatives from each section of the party. Sets objectives and oversees the running of the party nationally.

**Annual Conference:** The ultimate authority, deciding policy framework for the next manifesto as well as party rules. Conference considers papers prepared by all aforementioned parts of the party. CLPs choose delegates to vote on such matters.

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## Elected Representatives



**Member of Parliament for  
Bristol West**  
Thangam Debbonaire  
[thangam.debbonaire.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:thangam.debbonaire.mp@parliament.uk)



**Mayor of Bristol**  
Marvin Rees  
[marvinformayor@gmail.com](mailto:marvinformayor@gmail.com)



**Member of the European  
Parliament for South West**  
Clare Moody  
[clare@claremoodymep.com](mailto:clare@claremoodymep.com)

## City Councillors



Hibaq Jama  
[cllr.hibaq.jama@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hibaq.jama@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Lawrence Hill**



Afzal Shah  
[cllr.afzal.shah@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.afzal.shah@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Easton**



Margaret Hickman  
[cllr.marg.hickman@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.marg.hickman@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Lawrence Hill**



Kye Dudd  
[cllr.kye.dudd@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.kye.dudd@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Central**



Carole Johnson  
[cllr.carole.johnson@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.carole.johnson@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Ashley**



Mike Davies  
[cllr.mike.davies@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mike.davies@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Ashley**



Tom Brook  
[cllr.tom.brook@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.tom.brook@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Bishopston & Ashley Down**



Paul Smith  
[cllr.paul.smith@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.smith@bristol.gov.uk)  
**Central**

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## CLP Officers



**Vice Chair/Psephology Officer**  
Mary Southcott

[marysouthcott@hotmail.com](mailto:marysouthcott@hotmail.com)



**Chair**  
Margaret Hickman

[marghickman@me.com](mailto:marghickman@me.com)



**Vice Chair/Membership Officer**  
Yegor Ryazanov

[ryaza@msn.com](mailto:ryaza@msn.com)



**Vice Chair**  
John Halpin

[johninradstock@gmail.com](mailto:johninradstock@gmail.com)



**Secretary**  
Jane Collingwood  
[briswestlabour@gmail.com](mailto:briswestlabour@gmail.com)



**Treasurer**  
Bill Nicks  
[william.nicks@hooleandco.co.uk](mailto:william.nicks@hooleandco.co.uk)



**Fundraiser**  
Alex Osborne  
[alexmordenosborne@gmail.com](mailto:alexmordenosborne@gmail.com)



**Assistant Secretary**  
Jonathan Downing  
[briswestlabour@gmail.com](mailto:briswestlabour@gmail.com)



**Campaign Officer (non-elected)**  
Andy Burkitt  
[andy\\_burkitt@hotmail.com](mailto:andy_burkitt@hotmail.com)

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**Women's Officer**  
Charlotte Webb  
[charlotte.webb@live.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.webb@live.co.uk)



**Trade Union Liaison**  
Judy Wilson  
[judy.w@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:judy.w@blueyonder.co.uk)



**Campaign Assistant**  
Gareth Gough  
[garethpgough@gmail.com](mailto:garethpgough@gmail.com)



**Youth Officers**  
Mike Davies and Sean Smyth  
[mtpd1989@gmail.com](mailto:mtpd1989@gmail.com)  
[seandsmyth@gmail.com](mailto:seandsmyth@gmail.com)



**Diversity Officer**  
Amal Ali  
[amal23a@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:amal23a@hotmail.co.uk)



**Student Representative**  
Phil Jardine  
[phil\\_jardine87@hotmail.com](mailto:phil_jardine87@hotmail.com)



**LGBT Officer**  
Mike Preston  
[dantewoo@live.co.uk](mailto:dantewoo@live.co.uk)



**Communications Officer**  
Simon Keen  
[simonkeen01@gmail.com](mailto:simonkeen01@gmail.com)



**Disability Officer**  
William Anderson  
[willmikeanderson@gmail.com](mailto:willmikeanderson@gmail.com)



**Delegates to the LCF Executive Committee**  
Mary Southcott/ Gareth Gough



**Ward Organiser Officer**  
Phil Walsh  
[philip\\_walsh@btconnect.com](mailto:philip_walsh@btconnect.com)



**Labour Group Observer**  
TBC

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## EU Champion



**Hadleigh Roberts**

[labour@hadleighroberts.com](mailto:labour@hadleighroberts.com)

## CLP Meetings

Our meetings (General Committee) are open to all members of Bristol West Labour Party. Amongst other things, we regularly have reports from our councillors and other constituency officers and speakers on current political issues (suggestions for what you want to hear at these meetings are more than welcome).

Meetings are generally on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. The meetings are held at **King's Centre**, 16-18 King Square, Bristol, BS2 8JL.

## Your Local Ward Organiser

This is the person to contact if you would like to help out in your local ward. If you are unsure which ward you live in please contact Andy Burkitt ([andy\\_burkitt@hotmail.com](mailto:andy_burkitt@hotmail.com)).

**Ashley:** Chris Jenner ([chrisjenner57@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisjenner57@yahoo.com))

**Bishopston & Ashley Down:** Phil Walsh ([philip\\_walsh@btconnect.com](mailto:philip_walsh@btconnect.com))

**Central:** Jonathan Downing ([jonathan.downing86@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.downing86@gmail.com))

**Clifton:** TBC

**Clifton Down:** Richard Cove ([rwcove@gmail.com](mailto:rwcove@gmail.com))

**Cotham:** Mark Whiley ([mark.whiley@gmail.com](mailto:mark.whiley@gmail.com))

**Easton:** Alex Osborne ([alexmordenosborne@gmail.com](mailto:alexmordenosborne@gmail.com))

**Hotwells & Harbourside:** Peter Davey ([rep\\_daveyuk@hotmail.com](mailto:rep_daveyuk@hotmail.com))

**Lawrence Hill:** Kieth Mitchelmore ([kiethmitchelmore@btopenworld.com](mailto:kiethmitchelmore@btopenworld.com))

**Redland:** Matty Bacon ([matt\\_bacon2009@hotmail.com.uk](mailto:matt_bacon2009@hotmail.com.uk))

## Branch Chairs

**Easton + Lawrence Hill:** Alex Morden Osborne

**Clifton Down + Cotham:** David Jepson

**Hotwells & Harbourside + Clifton:** Gabriel Scally

**Bishopston & Ashley Down + Redland:** Miranda McCabe

**Ashley:** Judy Wilson

# Bristol West Constituency Labour Party

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## On the Web



The official website of Bristol West Constituency Labour Party:  
<http://www.bristolwestlabourparty.org.uk/>



Membersnet is essential for networking with friends and like-minded members of the party around the country. Acting as the hub of campaigning resources and keeping you up to date with others' social events near to you, Membersnet is a fantastic tool for any member. To sign up, all you need is your membership number (on your card) and a valid e-mail address. You can also update your contact details on Membersnet.



### **Bristol West Labour Party**

If you want to join in with discussions about national and local politics then join the Bristol West Labour group on Facebook! The posts will keep you informed of events in and around Bristol, campaigning sessions, interesting news items and people's opinions. Below is a list of other Bristol Labour Facebook groups.



### **Bristol Labour Party Members Group**



### **LGBT Labour Bristol West**



### **Bristol Labour Students**



### **Bishopston and Redland Labour Members**



### **Bishopston and Ashley Down Labour Party**



### **Easton and Lawrence Hill Labour Party**



### **Bristol West Labour**