



Oasis Trust and the United Reformed Church have come together in partnership to establish the MediaCityUK Church. MediaCityUK Church is a local outworking of the pioneering mission of Oasis & the URC. Café Church, is at present the main expression of the Church and operates from the Oasis Academy MediaCityUK and is part of the Oasis Community Hub MediaCityUK.

MediaCityUK Church lies in between the diverse communities of Ordsall and MediaCityUK. Both communities are subject ongoing change due to the re-development of the local area and social mobility.

45% of children and young people in Ordsall live in poverty and the neighbourhood of Ordsall has the second highest child poverty rate in the city of Salford.

By contrast, the Salford Quays area has been transformed by MediaCityUK and has attracted multi-million-pound investment from media and other organisations. This has brought with it gentrification and MediaCityUK will increase in size within the next 5 years.

History

The communities of Ordsall and Salford Quays were served by Salford Central Mission which in the early years of the 20th century facilitated provisions to meet community, spiritual and social needs. In the early 21st century, whilst still a central part of the community it was recognised that the church was struggling to continue in its present form. Talks between Oasis UK and the United Reformed Church began to find ways to collaboratively develop a new form of church which reflected the mission of the original church, infused with the Oasis Ethos of community transformation.

As part of the agreement between Oasis UK and the United Reformed Church, Oasis Academy MediaCityUK was built on the site of Salford Central Mission to support the learning of the local community. Within this agreement, the partnership of Oasis Church and the United Reformed Church was established with the intent of developing a Christ centred community.

After several attempts to work out what this might look like, 10 years on MediaCityUK church was formed within the heart of the communities of Ordsall and MediaCityUK. This was established with the purpose of growing and developing our understanding of God, spirituality and faith as we **serve others** and we **build relationships**. In short, we learn by doing.

What we believe

We passionately believe that, just as Abraham was, so we too are called and blessed by God to be a blessing to those around us. We have recognized that the love of God is inclusive and incarnational. We try to welcome any who want to join us, regardless of gender, race, sexuality, disability, etc. We know we have a long way to go, but our aim is for radical inclusion. We do our best to avoid traditional church jargon and talk about the Bible and our faith in language that is as normal as possible. We are motivated by engagement with the real world, e.g. addressing poverty, protecting the environment, running businesses, discussing ethics. We regard real and practical out workings of love for people and planet as being absolutely central to following Jesus, not peripheral.

As Oasis we are moving towards a progressive theology and want to pass on to the next generation a much better way of understanding what the Bible is and what it says than we inherited. We actively value questioning and discussion of any and every aspect of faith and how it applies to our lives today. We are at the very beginning, but we are aiming for a totally integrated and well-balanced model of church that has a worshipping community at its core, is welcoming to all, and looks outward to take action. I believe we are at a time in the history of the world where a new strong voice is desperately needed from the church: a voice of life and love, welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, rebuilding what was devastated, tackling the causes of huge problems in the world. An Oasis value is a deep sense of hope that things can be transformed. This is belief in resurrection. We want to see that put into practice in our locality