

A Royal Opportunity

Resourceful churches are occasionally given a chance to earn opportunistic income from secular events. St. Matthew's leaders saw such an opportunity in June 1939. Halifax was about to experience one of its great events in the visit and parade of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now known as the late Queen Mother) through the streets of the city on June 15.

The Trustees noted the church's wonderful location – next door to Government House. Presumably, the Royal Couple would be starting and ending their parade tour there. Grand stand seats were hastily erected along the Barrington Street perimeter of the church property. Tickets were sold. The Trustees took out special Public Liability insurance at a cost of \$42.00. The net income from the one day event was \$550.00 – probably equivalent to \$6,000 today!

Bill MacLennan, Church Archivist
(Contributed to the Kirk Spire in 2003)