

With thanks to Clive Bowley for sight of these images.

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CLEARANCE AREA N°2: 3 to 9 Church Lane Northgate.

Church Lane Northgate can be found off St Radigunds Street and just to the north of Clearance Area N°1. Initially, the affected cottages seemed no different to any one of the other 17th or 18th century dwellings in the St Radigunds area. Neither the property survey nor the photographic record, revealed anything out of the ordinary, except that the front elevation of some of the cottages in the terrace, were set back slightly further than the others.

Famous local builder and historian Mr W.S. Cozens, was awarded the demolition contract for Clearance Area N°2, in 1937. This proved to be a lucky move, for in the initial stages of demolition, he recognised that the timber frame being exposed, was actually medieval. Further examination revealed that numbers 3 to 9 Church Lane were, in fact, two late 14th or early 15th century 'Wealden hall houses', arranged one behind the other, in a T-shape. Therefore, the cottages set slightly back, related to the recessed central hall section of a typical Wealden type house.

Demolition was halted, and after some negotiation with the City Council, Mr Cozens began to repair and restore the property. Post-medieval partition walls of lath and plaster, were torn out of the interior, to reveal the original timber framing in all its glory.

The restoration of the building, or rather buildings, had been completed by 1939, to become St Radigunds Girls Club. Today, this fine structure is Simple Simons public house.

ST. RADIGUND'S GIRLS' CLUB



Saint Radigund's Girls' Club

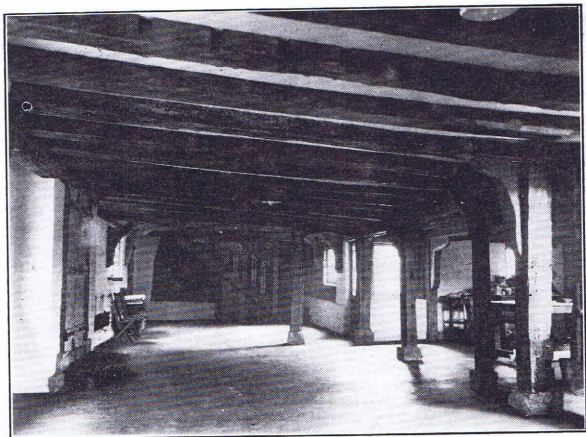
CHURCH LANE, ST. RADIGUND'S
CANTERBURY



Back—Ground Floor



Back View—Exterior



Ground Floor—Interior



First Floor—Interior

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1937 - 1938