

# Church Buildings Council

Dr R N Palmer  
H M Coroner  
Coroner's Office, St Blaise Building  
Bromley Civic Centre  
Stockwell Close  
Bromley BR1 3UH

Janet Gough  
Secretary, Church Buildings  
Council

18 July 2013

*Dear Dr Palmer,*

Your Ref: HMC/LJT/00239/2013/RV/CL

## **The Coroner's (Amendment) Rules 2008 (SI 2008 No 1652) – Rule 43 Report Inquest touching the death of Arthur JACOBS, died 28 January 2013**

I am writing further to the letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Deputy Secretary for Public Affairs of 15 July. I read it with great sadness about the death of Mr Jacobs, who was found in the locked disabled lavatory of the church hall of Christ Church, Broadway, Bexleyheath, after the church hall had been hired out by a community group.

My colleagues and I are also concerned to do our utmost to prevent a similar incident from happening in the future.

The Director of the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division will accordingly be writing to all dioceses to pass on to incumbents and church wardens, to remind them of the importance of ensuring all users thoroughly check church premises, especially lavatories before locking up. We will also suggest via our Diocesan Advisory Committees on the Care of Church Buildings that in future the design of disabled lavatories in particular might benefit from a gap above or below the door to assist in checking for occupancy of lavatory cubicles.

Such guidance will also be included on the ChurchCare website ([www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk)).

We hope this reminder will prevent another tragic incident from arising in church buildings whether they are used by church congregations or community or other users.

Yours sincerely,

*Janet Gough*

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