



While St Mark's church is open for services, the cemetery is the next fix-it project after the Pickett storm event in June 2016 damaged the church building and historic graveyard.

St Mark's Anglican Church in Pickett will reopen on July 23 - 413 days after the storm event which wreaked havoc on the community and property. It's been a long road to the reopening which takes place with a service at 8.15am.

Congregation member, David Kitchen recalls that fateful day June 5, 2016, "I was leading prayers when the power suddenly cut out and microphones went dead," Mr Kitchen said.

"The service concluded amidst heavy rain, but no-one anticipated that two metres of water would surge through the building that evening."

Reverend Don Boardman will remember was a very emotional event. "It has been a long 413 days, but we're thankful for the support of Wolandahli Shire Council, our commu-

nity, to be done on the building, including storage, a bathroom and the installation of a pipe organ.

"We will be sure to invite everyone along to celebrate with us when the restoration work is finally complete."

Rev Boardman said one particular area that the church would like a helping hand with is the repair of the damaged graves since in the Pickett Cemetery, which has been estimated at \$750,000-2M,000. "The cemetery has enormous historical significance and is not covered by any insurance policy.

"We're preparing to launch an appeal to crowd-fund some of this work and details are available on our website, <http://pwan.org.au>."

After the reopening, weekly services will