THE ST. LAURENCE ORGAN APPEAL 13, Stony Riding, CHALFORD HILL, Stroud, GL6 8ED.

30th September 1996

The Editor, The Citizen, Gloucester Street, Stroud.

Dear Sir,

For the last nine months the organ in St. Laurence Church has been out of use while work has been in progress to restore it. Now the electro-pneumatic action is in place and a refurbished console installed. The final adjustments are being made so that the organ-builder (Trevor Tipple of Worcester) can finally hand the instrument back to the church on this coming <u>Sunday (6th October)</u> during the 9.30 am service. As well as Mr. Tipple, there will also be present representatives of various local bodies who sponsored and supported the Appeal Fund. These include our MP (Mr. Roger Knapman), the Mayor of Stroud and representatives from Stroud District Council. There are many other people who have also contributed to the Fund and would like to hear the restored organ, especially on its first "outing"; they will be most welcome at the service this Sunday.

It is planned to hold an occasion when anyone, in the Stroud area and beyond, with an interest in the organ in particular or organ music in general, will be able to enjoy the results of Mr. Tipple's work. And this will be on Saturday 7th December when the celebrated organist, Dame Gillian Weir, will be giving a gala recital in a programme that will demonstrate the full potential of the organ. She will be including works by Elgar, JS Bach, Mozart, Franck, Howells, Durufle, Messiaen and the St. Laurence organist Christopher Boodle.

> NB: The Vicar of St. Laurence (Rev. B. publicity photograph of Dame Gillian sh wish to make use of it either now or la

faithfully,