

## Professor David Baker

David Baker was born in Bradford, West Yorkshire. His first love was the church organ, which he began playing aged 12. At 16, he was an Associate of the Royal College of Organists. He gained his Fellowship the following year. In 1970, he became Organ Scholar of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, graduating with a First Class Honours degree in Music three years' later. He took an MMus degree from King's College, London in 1974. He also holds two further master's degrees and a doctorate of philosophy degree.

David has held a number of senior posts in universities, culminating in his appointment as Principal and Chief Executive of the University of St Mark and St John Plymouth in 2003. He retired in 2009 to move back to Yorkshire. He has remained active as musician and musicologist, with his book *The Organ* (Osprey/Shire) selling over 15,000 copies. He is a regular writer and reviewer of organ and choral music and recordings, and was of *The Organ* magazine.

He has undertaken recital tours to Germany, Italy and Scandinavia and performed the entire organ works of J S Bach in 26 recitals and still performs as organ soloist and accompanist throughout the UK. David also now focuses on teaching the organ and in 2011 founded the Halifax Organ Academy, which aims to offer high quality tuition and support to organists of all ages and backgrounds in the north of England. He is a tutor for the Royal College of Organists' Academy.