



LINCOLN BAPTIST CHURCH

Canterbury, New Zealand

A HISTORY OF 142 YEARS (1876-2018)

Rupert Tipples

Picture on frontispiece: *'The Last of England'* by Ford Maddox Brown (1851-53)

Collection of *Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery*, [Birmingham Museums Trust](#).

Although Ford Maddox Brown was never a member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, *The Last of England*, like many of his paintings, exhibits all the characteristics of the movement. The painting depicts a man and his wife seeing England for the last time. The two main figures, based on Brown and his wife, [Emma](#), stare ahead, stony-faced, ignoring the [white cliffs of Dover](#) which can be seen disappearing behind in the top right of the picture. The clothing indicates that family are middle class, so are not leaving for the reasons that would force the emigration of the [working classes](#); Brown's writing touched on the same theme:

“The educated are bound to their country by quite other ties than the illiterate man, whose chief consideration is food and physical comfort.”

The fair-haired child in the background behind the man's shoulder is Brown and Emma's child, [Catherine](#), who was born in 1850. The hand of the baby, which can be seen clasped by the woman, is supposedly that of their second child, Oliver.

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_of_England_\(painting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_of_England_(painting))