

York Minster's Advent Procession will mark the start of Advent and look forward to the coming of the light in the world, as well as showcasing its commitment to address the climate emergency when its iconic west front will be illuminated for the first time by new energy-efficient lighting.

The installation of the Minster's new external LED lighting scheme is complemented by 184 new solar panels, currently being installed on its south quire roof, which will reduce the Minster's energy consumption by around a third.

The lighting scheme, paid for by the Minster and City of York Council, has been designed to minimise light pollution, ensuring that the Minster's medieval west front retains its prominence on the city's skyline well into the night without disturbing the neighbours.

The Very Reverend Dominic Barrington, Dean of York, said: "Every year, our Advent Procession starts in darkness with just a single candle illuminating the building.

"This year, the light will spread out into the city as the west front lights blaze to life, turning the Minster into a beacon shining over the historic City of York.'

The switch-on of the new lighting scheme has been timed to coincide with Advent Sunday in a season the Church of England has themed 'Calm and Bright'.

Inside the Minster, worshippers will also be in darkness until a single candle is lit and the flame shared around everyone present until the building is illuminated by hundreds of candles from those gathered within.

There will be more lights on display inside the building for Advent with the launch of the Minster's Christmas Tree Festival which opens with a light switch-on at 'Minster Mash-Up', York Minster's special service for children and families, on Saturday 30 November at 10am. The Festival is open during general admission times until 5 January.

The Dean added: 'This year, the light will spread further still as the Minster's Nave, Chapter House, Lady Chapel and north quire aisle will be illuminated by over seventy Christmas trees, each decorated and lit by charities, schools and organisations from across the city.

Entry to the Minster is free for all who wish to light a candle and say a prayer. You can find the Minster's Advent and Christmas programme in full [here yorkminster.org](http://yorkminster.org).

York Minster's Advent Procession will take place on Sunday 1 December 5.30pm and can be watched live on the [Minster's YouTube channel](#).