Abbot John (c. 1360 - 1464)

ABBOT JOHN OF WHEATHAMPSTEAD.
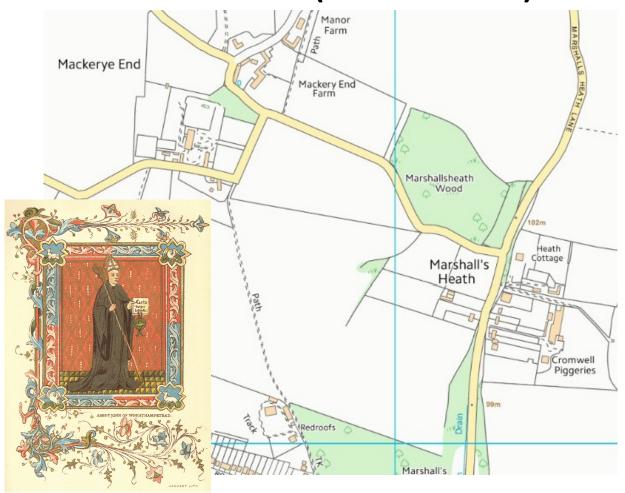
Fact File

John grew up at Mackerye End (meaning 'make rick' - or hay stacks)

As John was brainy, he was sent to school at St Albans Abbey. Taught by the monks, he decided to become a monk himself.

He trained in Oxford and became friends with the king's brother, Duke Humphrey.

John became Abbot of St Albans. He was a likeable abbot, but he was quite strict.

He entertained royalty to help raise funds to improve the abbey.

When King Henry V1 was injured during the Second Battle of St Albans, John took Henry V1 into the abbey infirmary.

We think John died aged 104! His chantry is decorated with ears of wheat, reminding us of where he started.

Imagine...

Pretend you are Abbot John. Write a letter to one of the monks explaining to him why it is important to behave properly.

Write the conversation between Abbot John and Henry V1 after the King has been Injured

Make a small rick (hay stack) to give to Abbot John to remind him of his home.

Design a mitre for Abbot John or a stained glass window for the abbey.

Make a scroll inviting the king and his court to spend Christmas at the abbey. Include a menu!

Find Out....

Find the brass in the Lamer Chapel at St Helen's Church. What does this tell us about Abbot John's family?