

Old Cornish [ɪ] to Middle Cornish [ɛ]: a few examples, with notes on how KS spelling decisions have been taken

benyn

-yn by etymology: plural -es shows this suffix is not -en (-ednow)

benenes by rule: stressed syllable in polysyllabic word ɪ > ɛ

Contrast *bledhen* < **blidhina* by a-affection: original vowel still seen in plural *bledhydnyow*

So UC benen is a less suitable spelling

dyweth

dy- by etymology

dewetha by phonetic rule: pre-tonic ɪ > ɛ

Contrast retention of ɪ in pre-tonic position in words where the meaning of the prefix is transparent: an instance of morphological levelling

So SWF diwettha is a less suitable spelling

meneth

-yth (ydh) by etymology (cf plural *menydh*), but parallel form *mena* confirms that i-quality in unstressed syllable (i coloured schwa) was lost in this word

So SWF menydh is a less suitable spelling

nowyth

-yth (ydh) by etymology

nowedhy by phonetic rule: stressed syllable in polysyllabic word ɪ > ɛ

So UC noweth is a less suitable spelling

kyns

y by etymology

kensa by phonetic rule: stressed syllable in polysyllabic word ɪ > ɛ

So UC kens is a less suitable spelling

kensa

By phonetic rule: pre-tonic ɪ > ɛ

So SWF kynsa is a less suitable spelling

ryb

y by etymology

Pronounced [reb] by phonetic rule: pre-tonic ɪ > ɛ

But KS does not adjust spellings of prepositions (cf *dhyrag* vs *arâg*)

So UC alternative reb is a less suitable spelling

kelgh

y would be etymological but *no* evidence of this spelling in the Corpus

So we go with universal Corpus spelling

A phonetic rule may be operating here: arguably [ɪlx] is an impossible sound combination for Middle Cornish – we find it in just one attested word, *fylgh* ‘scythe’, and that is only in Lhuyd

So SWF kylgh is a less suitable spelling