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Celebrating Daily Prayer
A Version of Common Worship Daily Prayer
ISBN 9780 8192 8134 0
Morehouse, 2005, £12.99

Time to Pray
Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer
from Common Worship Daily Prayer
ISBN: 9780 7151 2122 1
Church House Publishing, 2006, £12.99

In a sub-sub-title, 'Celebrating Daily Prayer' is described as: 'The new pocket version of Celebrating Common Prayer'. It follows more or less the format of the previous pocket version of CCP, but uses the canticle texts and psalmody found in Common Worship: Daily Prayer. Morning and Evening Prayer are presented in seven forms, as in CCP and its Franciscan version The Daily Office SSF. The psalms are printed in the text for each office, and short paragraph scripture readings are provided. The responsory is a single line, but the intercessions are more developed than CCP. No blessing is provided at the end. (Why have these disappeared? I wonder.) At the end there is a form for Night Prayer with seasonal variants, some litanies, general prayers, collects and occasional services such as Eucharistic Devotions. In fact, most of CCP is here somewhere or other, but without the full psalter or the extended options for canticles.

One thing to notice is that this is billed as a pocket version, but you would have to have rather large pockets to fit it into. Even a habit's pockets would be straining at the seams: it's the same height and width as CCP, just a little thinner at only 370 pages. The typeface is also smaller than CCP which is wearing on the eyes, and there is no colour to brighten the page as in CW:DP. But having said all that, if you want a slightly smaller version of CW:DP for travelling use, then this would fit the bill and be easier to carry than the standard version.

For daytime travels and prayerful commuters, Time to Pray offers Prayer During the Day, and Night Prayer, in a nice soft cover and only 107 pages. Here the scripture readings are full paragraphs, but the psalms really very restricted. An alternative psalmody is suggested but not printed, which loses the effectiveness of a pocket edition. Strangely enough Psalm 119 is nowhere to be found, and the Psalms of Ascent (120 - 134) make only one or two appearances. But there are plenty of rubrics, properly colour coded, and one feels more in the environment of CW:DP. At the end of the day, and the middle of it too, whatever helps us to pray is surely a good thing, but a prayer rope and a few Jesus Prayers or Our Fathers might do the job just as well.

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