



> The Bishop of Hull Alison White blesses a statue of Aslan, a character from the *Chronicles of Narnia* by CS Lewis, at St Mary's Church in Beverley, East Yorkshire. Fourteen commissioned stone carvings will eventually adorn the exterior of the church
 Danny Lawson

Royal brothers 'stopped talking for two months'

THE Duke of Sussex and the Duke of Cambridge did not speak for two months after the Sandringham summit sparked by the Megxit crisis, a royal writer has said.

Omid Scobie - co-author of *Finding Freedom*, which chronicles Harry and Meghan's life as royals - said the Sussexes' decision to reveal their plans to quit without warning the Windsors caused the most upset with William, and the rift between the brothers will take some time to heal.

Harry and Meghan released their bombshell statement about wanting to step down as senior royals in January, prompting the Queen to call a meeting at Sandringham with the duke, his older brother and their father, the Prince of Wales, to deal with the crisis.

The couple's final public royal engagement was the Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey in March, where Kate was accused in the book of barely acknowledging her sister-in-law.

Scobie, speaking on True Royalty TV's *The Royal Beat*, said: "Where it really went wrong for Harry and Meghan and the Cambriges was

PA REPORTERS
 Press Association

that decision to go public with the roadmap to their new working model, the statements that weren't discussed internally.

"That's really what caused the most amount of hurt to William because he wears two hats.

"He's not just the brother. He's also a future king and he felt that that damaged the reputation of the family, that it put family business out in the public domain when it should have been discussed privately.

"And there was a lot of hurt there that continues to this day."

He added: "It's why we saw such an awkward moment at that Commonwealth service.

"The brothers had not spoken since around the time of the Sandringham summit. They hadn't seen each other. And, you know, that's really going to take some time to heal."

Scobie also suggested that Harry, who has outlined his personal commitment to tackling institutional racism, will at some point address his own past mistakes.

He was widely condemned in 2009 after being caught on film calling a former Army colleague a "Paki", and in 2005 he caused outrage when he donned a Nazi soldier's uniform complete with swastika for a fancy dress party.

The author said: "He's on a journey at the moment and I do think that at some point we'll hear him really talk about that journey and what he's learnt on that.

"But I think at the moment... he's still educating himself. Maybe he feels he's not there yet."

He described Harry and Meghan's new £11 million home in Santa Barbara, California, as "pretty much their forever home". Kensington Palace declined to comment.

A source close to the Sussexes said Harry and Meghan are in contact with the royal family. "The family are in contact with each other - a suggestion that they're not talking is untrue," they said.

On the duke's racial inequality work, they added: "The duke believes that it takes every single person to combat racism and racial inequality and he definitely counts himself as part of that."

READY TO GO BACK?



Matalan's range of affordable schoolwear options, from uniform and sports kit to footwear and stationery has everything you need to face the classroom once more.

The Western Daily Press have teamed up with our friends at Matalan to give four lucky winners the chance to win £50 vouchers each towards the Back to School Shop! It may have been a little while since kids have had to attempt to tie up their shoes or a tie but its time to go back and we are here to help!

The all year round school collection is stylish, smart and comfortable. From stain resistant trousers and skirts, colour lasting jumpers and easy-care shirts, Matalan has got the best quality and kit that will last from term to term. Technical benefits within school uniform have become a parents survival, used to ensure the longevity of uniform, Matalan has put this at the front of their priorities, with teflon coated uniform, durable and minimum iron fabrics and even riptape fastenings instead of buttons.



To enter this competition you must collect **three passwords** that will be printed in this title everyday from Monday 17th August to Saturday 22nd August.

Once you have all of the tokens visit www.somersetlive.co.uk/backtoschool and enter the form online, you can also read full terms and conditions here.

This is your token

All entries must be submitted by Sunday 23rd August. A winners will be contacted on Tuesday 25th August.