

Andrew Taylor-Browne

Living Witness

Religious Society of Friends

Order of Buddhist Contemplatives

the Strengths of Religious Communities

1. Sacred Values

2. Shared values - so it's safe to admit struggles and doubts and receive encouragement

3. Understanding climate change as Personal Revelation

4. Forgiveness - without which we are left with guilt, blame and anger, and an inability to accept loss

“what we most need to do is
to hear within us the sounds
of the Earth crying”

Thich Nhat Hanh - when asked ‘what must we do to
save our world?’

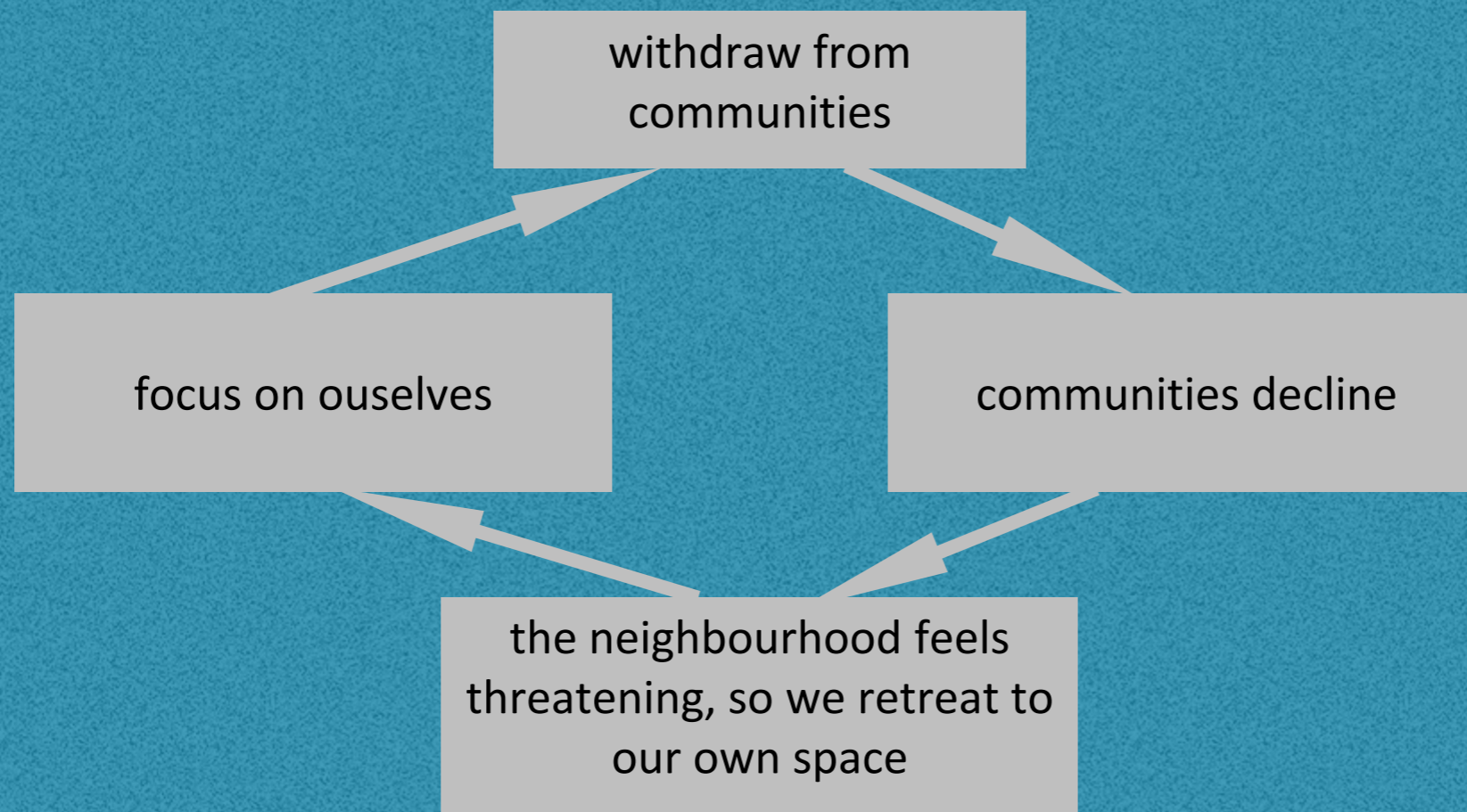
- some of my worst fears about the future are...

- the feelings that I carry round with me because of these fears are...

"A human being is part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separate from the rest. A kind of optical delusion of consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty... We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive." - Albert Einstein

some of our connected selves...

- with our family;
- with our religious community and friends;
- with the wider community in which we live;
- with the worldwide community of human beings;
- with all sentient beings;
- with all beings and things (incl. trees, rivers, stones, mountains, oceans)
- and for all of these we need to understand our deep relationship with those who have come before us and with those who will come after us



the vicious cycle of community erosion

Gaining Strength

where next?

- Conversations - '365 conversations'
- Practice paying Careful and Sustained Attention to all our relationships
- Give ourselves time - "Time is that quality of nature which keeps events from happening all at once. Lately it doesn't seem to be working.'
- And (just perhaps?) - "the key to the treasure is the treasure"